



# THE GUARDIAN

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Soviet leader refuses to meet Reagan in US

## Gromyko wants Vienna summit

By Hella Pick in Vienna

The Soviet Union has proposed a summit meeting with President Reagan in Vienna, but rejected the US invitation for Mikhail Gorbachev to visit Washington. The Soviet leader does not want a meeting in New York, even within the framework of next autumn's United Nations General Assembly.

This emerged from an unscheduled 15-minute discussion between the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Andrei Gromyko, and the US Secretary of State, Mr. George Shultz, yesterday.

The meeting occurred after the Austrian state treaty ceremony. It seems likely that Mr. Shultz, having spoken to Washington, may have told Mr. Gromyko that a Vienna summit may be acceptable.

Although the Americans have not yet committed themselves on Mr. Gromyko's proposal, President Reagan considers that it is the US turn to look at a summit. Mr. Gromyko justified the Soviet refusal of a meeting in the US by asserting that the US-Soviet relationship is not at present good enough for Mr. Gorbachev to accept the invitation.

He initially suggested that Mr. Reagan should visit Moscow. Predictably, this was rejected. The Russians then suggested a neutral place, such as Geneva, but Mr. Gromyko said that the Americans and Generals were unsuitable because of the intractable arms talks.

That left Vienna, which was considered favourably, since the US and the Soviet Union both believe that an interim agreement on troop withdrawals from Europe should be possible soon. This is being negotiated at the 11-year-old Vienna talks on mutual balance force reductions.

Mr. Shultz said shortly before leaving Vienna yesterday, "both sides believe a meeting would be useful, but we have not yet been able to settle when and where that meeting will take place."

On Tuesday Mr. Gromyko and Mr. Shultz met for six

hours, but failed to narrow their differences on any of the main issues, least of all on the substance of the Geneva arms talks. None the less, they agreed that talks must continue and this alone offers some grounds for optimism.

At yesterday's ceremonies to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Austrian state treaty, they praised the political achievement which it represented and argued that the long drawn out East-West negotiations which produced the treaty, carried a less on for the resolution of today's problems.

The state treaty ceremony was held in the room where it was signed in 1955. Sir Geoffrey Howe and the French Foreign Minister were also here. The four men represented the former occupying powers.

Dr Bruno Kreisky, who was one of the Austrian negotiators for the state treaty, and who subsequently, as foreign minister and then as chancellor, became the principal architect of Austria's policy of active neutrality, was the first of yesterday's speakers to emphasise that the Austrian state treaty should serve as a model to the superpowers.

Sir Geoffrey met with Mr. Gromyko for more than an hour, but emerged without agreeing on a firm date for the Soviet Minister's visit to London. Sir Geoffrey rejected suggestions that relations between the two countries should be improved by a recent

visit of recent Soviet officials to Vienna.

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## Thatcher sets up group on football safety

By John Caird, Political Correspondent

MRS THATCHER yesterday set up a working group to supervise improvement in safety standards at football grounds in the wake of the Bradford fire disaster.

At a 75-minute meeting with Lord Abernethy, chairman of the Football Trust, the Prime Minister set up the group to supervise improvement in safety standards at football grounds in the wake of the Bradford fire disaster.

The working group is to be chaired by Mr. Neil Macfarlane, the Minister for Sport and will include representatives from the Football Trust and its subsidiary, the Football Grounds Improvement Trust, as well as the Sports Council.

The group will keep in close touch with the Football

League and the Football Association. Its first job will be to assess what resources are needed to bring football ground safety to an adequate standard.

The improvement trust yesterday asked surveyors to begin the work. It felt alarmed that about 45 grounds will need attention and that the investigation will extend beyond clubs in the Third and Fourth Divisions.

The plan is for safety improvement work to start on a staggered basis as survey reports are completed. The Government does not envisage a crash programme and accepts that most of the clubs concerned will have to carry out the work themselves.

Mr. Macfarlane's working group will be made up of representatives from the Football Trust and the Football Association. It will be chaired by Mr. Neil Macfarlane, the Minister for Sport and will include representatives from the Football Trust and its subsidiary, the Football Grounds Improvement Trust, as well as the Sports Council.

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THE Home Secretary, Mr. Leon Brittan, (above), who battled against boos, heckling and laughter during his address to the Police Federation conference in Blackpool yesterday.

The 2,000 delegates, who had earlier passed a unanimous vote of no confidence in the Government's law and order policy, welcomed Mr. Brittan when he spoke of the smooth implementation of the

Police and Criminal Evidence Act next January, and also jeered his references to police manpower, rent allowances and measures to tackle serious crime.

Earlier the Police Federation chairman, Mr. Leslie Curtis, received a standing ovation after a speech in which he emphasised the federation's strong reservations about the new police legislation.

Report, page 2. Picture by Don McPhee.

## Hailsham forces Thatcher to drop building society conveyancing

By Malcolm Dean

Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, has defeated Mrs Thatcher, over a proposal, which she supported, to give building societies the right to provide a combined conveyancing and mortgage deal to house buyers.

Both the Prime Minister and Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, the solicitor-general, are on record in support of extending conveyancing to building societies and Lord Hailsham in a debate this year said the Government was still committed to the idea.

Behind the scenes, however, he has been fighting a rear-guard action on the grounds that this additional role for building societies would put many solicitors out of business. About 50 per cent of all solicitors' income comes from conveyancing work and for small firms in rural areas the proportion is even higher.

Lord Hailsham's victory will create a political row. Mr. Austin Mitchell, the Labour MP for Grimsby, withdrew his private member's bill to end the solicitors' monopoly on paid conveyancing of property on the understanding that the Government would allow licensed conveyancers and building societies to provide their own clients with a conveyancing service.

The bill, which was sponsored by the Consumers' Association and all-party support but the Law Society — the solicitors' professional body — has collected the names of over 80 MPs who oppose the extension.

Lord Hailsham has fought his battle in the cabinet committee which is considering legislation for the next parliamentary session.

The Prime Minister and Mr. Norman Tebbit, the Trade and Industry Secretary, supported ending the solicitors' monopoly but this was resisted by the Lord Chancellor and Mr. Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, who, like the Prime Minister, is a barrister.

Mrs Thatcher has insisted that the building societies should be seen to have some rights to provide conveyancing but Lord Hailsham is understood to have won the principal battle that a building society which provides a mortgage cannot provide a conveyancing service to the same client.

He used the same argument in committee as the law Society that this would be a conflict of interest. This argument looked unconvincing to some ministers in the light of plans by some solicitors to set up conveyancing shops.

Two options have been floated at ministerial meetings which would allow the Government to honour its commitment without letting the new service be any real threat to solicitors.

The first, which was put up by Lord Hailsham, was that a building society would be allowed to provide a conveyancing service for people obtaining mortgages from another society.

But there would be nothing in such an arrangement for the building societies and it is believed to have been scotched by the Prime Minister.

Another option which is being explored is that building societies would form conveyancing firms which would provide conveyances, but this again is unlikely to be popular with the solicitors.

Ministers met last Tuesday and Sir Patrick is expected to make some announcement in the Commons today during the second reading of the Administration of Justice Bill, which will authorise licensed conveyancers.

These conveyancers, who will begin work next year, will end the solicitors' 180-year-old monopoly on paid conveyance. They are not regarded as a threat by the solicitors, who are only really concerned about the building societies to whom most house buyers turn before even thinking about a solicitor.

## Action likely to fight loss of 4,800 rail workshop jobs

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

Widespread industrial action on the railways is likely next week after British Rail Engineering Ltd announced plans to cut staff at its engineering workshops by 4,800 over the coming two years.

The executive of the National Union of Railwaysmen is likely to meet before the weekend to discuss the plan. The union's general secretary, Mr. Andy Dodds, said: "I think our colleagues in the overall railway industry

have given a clear indication that enough is enough."

Talks between BR management and the unions have been adjourned until May 29, but Mr. Dodds warned that industrial action could take place before then.

The plans announced by BREL affect 4,800 jobs in 10 workshops throughout the country. They represent one of the largest single job-shedding programmes of recent years.

If carried through, BREL's labour force will have been cut from 35,000 in the early

eighties to around 20,000 by the spring of 1987.

The axe will cut deepest at Swindon, where the engineering works are to close with the loss of 2,300 jobs. A further 1,200 jobs are going at Glasgow, 400 at Eastleigh in Hampshire, 350 at Doncaster and 180 at Crewe.

There will be other reductions at Wolverton, Buntingford, York, Derby, and Horwich, Greater Manchester.

The decision to close the Swindon works by next March was described as "wicked" and a "bombshell" by Mr. Arthur Miles, leader of the Swindon-based, Thamesdown Borough Council.

Railway union leaders in Swindon are likely to lead the local NUR executive members to generate extra work from overseas rail-ber, Mr. Harold Sealey dismissed the BREL claim that planned reductions could be achieved by natural wastage.

He said: "The NUR has got a policy decision that when the first man is made compulsorily

redundant, we will use our total industrial strength. I cannot see how they can dispose of 2,300 jobs at Swindon without compulsory redundancy."

According to BREL the planned reductions reflect the decline in repair and maintenance work for British Rail and the failure to generate extra work from overseas rail-ber, Mr. Harold Sealey dismissed the BREL claim that planned reductions could be achieved by natural wastage.

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## Two PCs killed in air crash

By Stephen Cook

Two police officers died after their Optica observation aircraft crashed in Hampshire yesterday.

They were monitoring traffic when the Optica appeared to go out of control and crashed among trees near the market town of Ringwood.

The pilot, PC Gerald Spencer, aged 37, and police photographer PC Malcolm Wiltshire, aged 44, who were both married with two children, were members of Hampshire police's six-strong air support unit.

The forces took delivery of

the £180,000 Optica on Tuesday to carry out a four-month evaluation of its potential for police work.

As the Optica was handed over by Air Force, the assistant chief constable, Mr. Richard Stobart, said it offered "progress in crime detection which has been beyond the reach of police in Britain until now."

The ability of the Optica to fly low and slow for long

Turn to back page, col. 7

PCs Malcolm Wiltshire (left) and Gerald Spencer

## Everton's European triumph

Everton, the new Football League champions and FA Cup finalists, won their first European trophy last night when they defeated Rapid Vienna 3-1 in Rotterdam to lift the Cup-Winners' Cup.

Everton dominated from the start, but did not score until the 58th minute when Andy Gray shot into an empty net.

Konsel then denied Everton with a brilliant save from Trevor Steven, but was helpless when the midfield player netted from close range after a corner in the 73rd minute.

Krankl gave Rapid hope when he beat Neville Southall after 85 minutes, but Kevin Sheedy confirmed Everton's superiority with a third goal a minute later.

David Lacey, page 24

NEWS IN BRIEF

## New rules rejected

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE miners have voted by a 3-1 majority to reject proposed national rule changes, and face the possibility of expulsion from the national union. Back page.

## Experiments curb

STRICTER curbs on animal experiments proposed in a white paper yesterday should become law within a year. Page 4.

## Pym lies low after second defection

By James Naughtie, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr. Francis Pym and his group of Tory dissidents yesterday faced a new barrage of criticism from Government whips and their own defectors, and decided that their best policy was to lie low.

About two dozen adherents of Conservative Centre Forward met in a remote Commons office, where there was some strong criticism of Mr. Pym's style in launching the group in his speech at the Oxford Union this week. But they concluded that they will wait until after the Whitson recess, which begins next week, before attempting to mobilise a revolt in the Commons lobbies.

Those at the meeting were



Mr. Jerry Hayes — 'divisive' group

undismayed by the chorus of derision coming from the party hierarchy and would continue to pursue the criticism of the Government's style and policy.

Turn to back page, col. 4

## Honduras 'disarms' contra forces'

From Tony Jenkins in Tegucigalpa

The Honduran Government claims that US-backed Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries are being disarmed and forced to withdraw from camps near the Nicaraguan border. Diplomats claim that the army has trained its tanks and artillery against contra bases to ensure rebel compliance.

The Minister of the Presidency, Mr. Ovidio Arriaga, said that the Honduran Government and the armed forces have got to proceed immediately to disarm (the contras) and that is what they are doing.

Western diplomats confirmed the Government's claim. Contra leaders here have denied the reports. One said that

Lighting a fuse, page 17

after being reequipped during the last month the rebels are keen to cross back into Nicaragua, but to avoid the Sandinista army they have to infiltrate slowly and in small groups.

In the meantime, he said, the army has asked them to move into smaller secret bases to avoid Sandinista attacks.

Nicaraguan multiple rocket launchers — nicknamed Stalin's Organs — have a range of nearly 13 miles. The move follows Sandinista hot pursuit operations which have seen Nicaraguans cross into Honduras twice in the last fortnight. In addition, the Sandinistas have shelled Honduran villages where the contras have taken refuge. One Honduran soldier has died and more than 1,000 Honduran civilians have fled their homes.

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## The weather

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"Only 96 out of 800 O-level students of Eng. Lit., in a recent study, said they'd read any more poetry after leaving school. I'm surprised the figure is as high as that. But some people will say anything to please."

## READ AND INWARDLY DIGEST

In this week's Times Educational Supplement Fay Weldon attacks the colonisation of writers for the profit of examiners, and proposes the abolition of literature exams.

Also this week — Reviews of the latest reference books in Art, Astronomy, Butterflies, Birds, Building, Education, English (AUS, US, and British varieties), Fish, Flowers, French (and French slang), Geography ..... and many other topics.

## THE TIMES Educational Supplement

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# Rees calls for inquiries into pit policing

By Colin Brown, Political Reporter

A Royal Commission on the policing of the miners' dispute was demanded yesterday in a report to the Labour leader Mr Neil Kinnock, by the former Home Secretary, Mr Merlyn Rees.

The Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, was also warned by Mr Rees not to rush into legislation after the review of the Public Order Act, to be presented to Parliament today.

Mr Rees further suggested that an inquiry on the lines of the Scarman inquiry into the Brixton riots should look into allegations by miners about abuse from police during the dispute.

The 70-page report, produced by Mr Rees with another Labour MP, Mr Gordon Brown, at the request of Mr Kinnock, is likely to influence opposition policy on the police in the aftermath of the miners' dispute.

Although the report makes no specific recommendations about changes in police methods Mr Rees said at a press conference at Westminster yesterday that he believed the Home Secretary should be made nationally responsible for the police forces; changes in police training should be undertaken and control of the controversial National Reporting Centre for the police should pass from the Association of Chief Police Officers to the Home Office.

In calling for a Royal Commission, Mr Rees said the association had denied allegations that the reporting centre at Scotland Yard was being used to turn the 43 police forces into a national squad.

The commission, they recommended, should look into the accountability of the police, nationally and locally; the establishment of joint police boards to take over from the police committees after the abolition of the metropolitan county councils and the funding of the police, which had been provided nationally during the dispute.

Mr Rees recommended that in a national emergency the Home Secretary should be able to report to the Commons on the national deployment of police support units.

The need for a separate urgent inquiry into the police handling of the miners' dispute was reinforced, said the report, because of the allegations made against the police during the MP's tour around the country.

There were many complaints that police officers from outside the mining areas, particularly London, behaved with lack of tact and understanding; that the miners regarded the police as "NGB men"; that the police daily re-defined where the pickets could operate; and that insults were directed at striking miners and their wives.

# Home Secretary shaken by derision over criminal evidence act

## Police Federation barracks Brittan

By Tom Sharrett

The Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, was jeered and barracked during much of a 35-minute address to delegates at the Police Federation conference at Blackpool yesterday.

A few of his remarks won brief applause, but many points — notably references to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act — were greeted with derisive laughter, cries of protest, and shouts of "rubbish". Mr Brittan was clearly shaken by the strength of feeling against him.

Delegates have made repeated references during the conference to the difficulties of implementing the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, and Mr Brittan provoked an outburst when he referred to the "smooth implementation" of the act on January 1, next year.

He went on: "I can well appreciate that, at a time when the bulk of the training has not yet begun, and when the act's provisions appear to most officers to entail a complex and extensive range of new responsibilities, the prospect looks daunting."

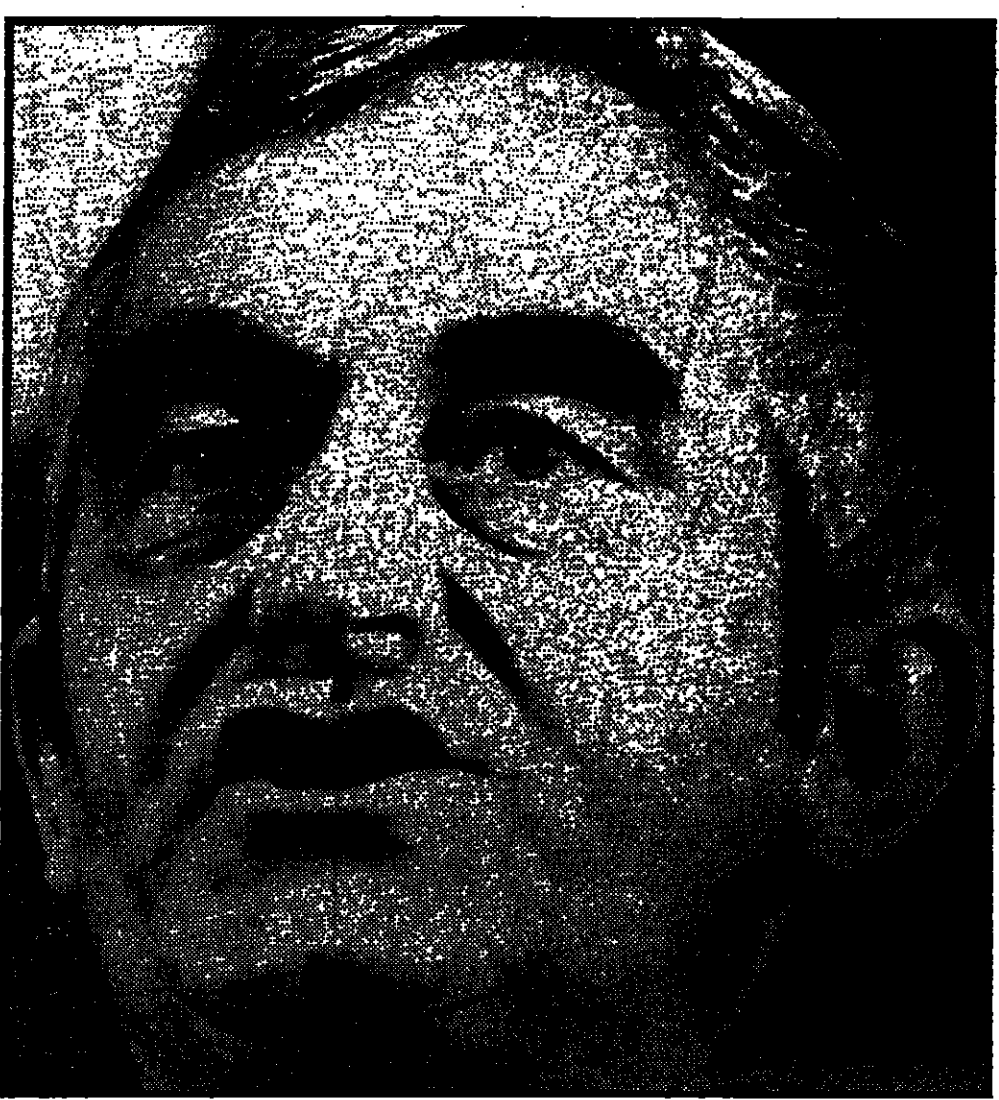
But time had been set aside for familiarisation and training, he said. Delegates jeered again when he said: "I do believe that the task will prove less difficult than it appears at first sight."

The barracking became even louder when he said that any breach of the code of practice would render an officer liable to disciplinary proceedings: "I have no doubt that disciplinary authorities in forces will approach these new provisions with due care, and will not resort instantly to discipline for genuine mistakes by officers honestly attempting to come to terms with these requirements."

Mr Brittan also provoked uproar when he replied to an earlier comment from the chairman, Mr Leslie Curtis, about a decline in police manpower — he said that the number had risen by more than 12,000 in the past six years.

However, he was applauded when he paid tribute to police bravery during the Bradford football fire last weekend, and when he said that he would never allow "civilisation" of the police to affect efficiency.

The Home Secretary said the public wanted to see more effective prevention and detection of violent crime, burglary, street crime, and football hooliganism.



Leslie Curtis, the Police Federation chairman, tells the conference of the "bureaucratic nightmare" caused by the new legislation

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# Ulster voters suffer identity crisis

From Paul Johnson in Belfast

Legislation aimed at preventing electoral abuse in Northern Ireland led to some confusion yesterday, as voters went to the polls in local government elections.

A widespread publicity campaign warned that only driving licences, allowance books, Irish or British passports, medical cards, and marriage certificates would be acceptable as proof of identity.

However, people turned up armed with a wide variety of official and not so official documents, and expected to be given ballot papers.

There were bus passes, kidney donor cards, UB40s, bank books, hospital passes, certificates, TV and HGV licences and — in one case — a second world war travel permit. All these were turned away.

However, until late last night there had been no serious allegations of impersonation, although this may have been at the cost of disenfranchising some legitimate voters.

When the Government announced its intention to introduce this legislation, it claimed that the main beneficiary of electoral abuse involving voting in someone else's name — whether they were living or dead — was Sinn Féin.

It was alleged that up to 20 per cent of the vote obtained by Sinn Féin came through manipulation of the system, which is why particular attention will be paid to the size of the party's support this time.

It is the first time the political wing of the IRA has fought local elections Province-wide.

Persecution has for long been regarded in Northern Ireland as more of a game than a grave abuse. Anecdotal evidence includes stories of coachloads of people being driven into the Province from the Republic to be given a drink and a polling card.

As usual in Northern Ireland, there was strong police and army presence at many polling stations as the electoral selected councillors for the 24 local authorities. The final count, involving the proportional representation system, will not be complete until late tomorrow.

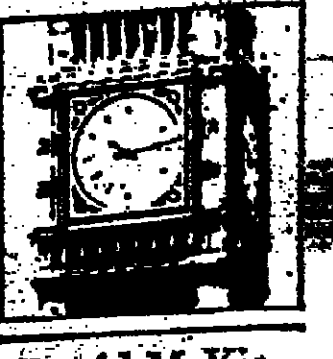
Alan Francis said: Disciplinary action is to be taken against more Royal Ulster Constabulary officers as the result of an inquiry into the events in West Belfast on August 12 last year in which one man died and 20 people were injured when police tried to capture Mr Martin Galvin, a director of Noraid, the US-based body which raises funds for Sinn Féin.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said last night in a Commons written answer that the report on the events by Sir John Hermon, the RUC Chief Constable, had identified shortcomings in the police's planning for the control of the Sinn Féin parade and that the RUC was already proceeding in connection with the death of Mr Sean Downes, and there is also a lesser charge against another member of the force.

Disciplinary action is being considered in other cases," he said.

Eight cases in other parts of Britain have been reported to the Department of Health since April, the Health Minister Kenneth Clarke said in a Commons answer. He told Labour's health spokesman, Mr Frank Dobson, that there had been three cases in Portsmouth, including one death, one fatal case each in Bristol and Birmingham, and one each in Sheffield, Leicester, and London.

About 5 per cent of all pneumonia cases each year are attributed to Legionnaire's Disease.



David McKie

# Nigel sneers at the sneerers

THERE were hardly more than a dozen Labour members present yesterday to hear their industry spokesman, John Smith, launch a motion condemning the Government for its "wilful neglect" of manufacturing industry and for our new, unprecedented deficit on manufacturing trade. What-

ever the reason, committee room 9 seemed to be a one-roomed hovel in the own right, especially when the Conservatives had mustered almost twice as many.

The start of Centre Forward was missing yesterday, but at least we had a veteran midfield schemer present in the shape of James Prior, who belongs, nowadays to an organisation which seemed to be working the Government rather more than the official opposition yesterday: the board room of GEC.

Mr Prior did not allege neglect, but he warned the Government that service industries could not carry the burden alone if manufacturing industry wasted away. And he denounced the Treasury for the "delays and frustrations" it kept putting in the way of companies chasing crucial overseas orders.

The Chancellor was not there to hear Mr Prior's case, but if he had, he would have dismissed it with contempt; for in a sense, he had done so already, at a morning session of the Lords select committee on trade.

It is a committee dripping with industrial experience, chaired by Lord Aldington (ex-GEC), with Lord Kearton (ex-Courtauld and BNO), Lord Boardman (NatWest), Lord Emsley (ICI), and Lord Beswick (ex-British

Aerospace) among the supporting cast. They have already taken copious evidence, notably from Lord Weinstock (GEC) and John Harvey-Jones (ICI), whose bitter complaints against the Government made headlines a few weeks ago.

On what they had heard so far, Lord Aldington told the Chancellor, they had come to believe that "something very near crisis" was developing. They did not see that service industries could carry the gap left by manufacturing's decline. And without a flourishing manufacturing sector, they were becoming convinced, standards of life in Britain must fall.

Nigel was unimpressed. "Crises what crisis?" was his attitude. Of course the Government wanted manufacturing to prosper, but there was no iron law to say we must produce as much as we consumed. If we were better at manufacturing, a surplus of services and deficit on manufacturing might be the right national blend.

As for previous evidence, his message, only lightly veiled, seemed to be: "Try not to be so glib." This Weinstock, for instance, already consuming large chunks of government aid. And this Harvey-Jones, with his gripes about chemicals — talk like that.

He met many such people. Get them together round a table and they would blather and moan like a lot of farmers. But take them aside, ask how their own outfits were doing, and they would often tell you: never better.

And when Labour's Lord Stoddart dared to bring the Chancellor back to the inability of the service sector to stand on its own, he got Nigel at his most supercilious and withering. "I find the whole drift of this conversation rather distasteful — this sort of sneering at service industries," he said. It was an insult to those who worked in them, implying that these were not real jobs, relegating them to second class citizens.

Lord Aldington surfaced through the deluge and tried to sum up. They seemed to differ, he suggested, on the urgency of the problem. Nigel was not letting him get away with that. The real problem, he announced, had to do with supply, making companies efficient, setting trade unions to behave. That was what was really important.

# Provincial group backs planned Shah national

By Maggie Brown

Portsmouth, and Sunderland Newspapers yesterday emerged as one of the backers of Mr Eddy Shah's new national newspaper.

It is putting up £500,000, initially as a loan, which can be converted into a shareholding of about 5 per cent in Mr Shah's company News (UK). It is tendering to print under contract, a possible 200,000 copies per day of the seven-day tabloid, at its print centres in Portsmouth and Sunderland.

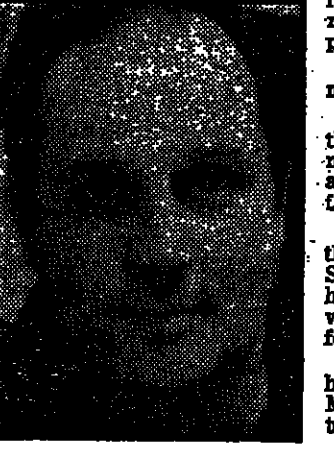
It would also be prepared to help to distribute the paper, if requested.

The announcement drew an angry reaction from the National Graphical Association print union, with which Mr Shah has waged a bitter battle.

The union said it was appalled at the decision, which it agreed to take without prior consultation and was a "stab in the face" to PSN employees.

The NGA will contact the TUC and other print unions to consider a joint response.

The announcement is doubly annoying to the union since Portsmouth and Sunderland are the two main print centres of the NGA rights to transfer mem-



Eddie Shah — plans for seven-day newspaper

bers to work as journalists, doing sub-editing, while retaining NGA membership.

The agreement, unique in the provincial press, allows a full direct typesetting of stories, eliminating an entire production level.

Sir Richard Storey, PSN chairman and chief executive, said last night that he believed his NGA workforce should welcome the news.

"If we win the contract, then it will double our daily print run and bring an increase of staff in the press

rooms while new technology reduces employment in the composing areas."

He believes that Mr Shah's new paper is going to do well.

The announcement shows that Mr Shah is planning a mixture of contract printing and directly-owned print works for his newspaper.

Mr Mark Kersen, who runs the Wolverhampton Express & Star, confirmed last night that his company has not been involved in any move to print for Mr Shah.

New UK is believed to have chosen its own site in the Midlands, two miles north of the junction of the M1 and M6.

Sources within the general print union Sogat '82, which organises newspaper distribution, believe that Mr Shah is considering, because of costs, dropping plans to distribute the paper direct to newsgagents by a system of franchised vans, cutting out unorganised wholesalers such as Menzies and W H Smith.

Sir Richard says that if Mr Shah asked him to provide a distribution service, which he has not "at this stage", he would be interested.

Mr Shah's project is costing £20 million, £10 million of it equity finance and £10 million in loans, largely from the Hungarian National Bank.

# Ilea school risking crisis, say inspectors

By John Fairhall

Education Inspector

A GOVERNMENT-APPOINTED team of inspectors yesterday called for "swift and strong remedial action" to avert the risk of crisis at an inner London Education Authority boarding school.

In a report released after a nine-day visit to Woolverstone Hall near Ipswich, Suffolk, last November, they highlighted how morale, unsatisfactory management, vandalism, potential fire risks and evidence of bullying as their reasons for concern.

"Low morale, unacceptable patterns of behaviour and poor attitudes to work" were widespread among the 300 boys. As for management: "There is a lack of consistent policy, low morale, and a widespread mutual lack of confidence and trust."

The inspectors, however, were unable to find the precise cause of "the failure of communications or the breakdown in relationships."

The boys' behaviour was found to be extremely variable, "ranging from helpful, responsible, courteous and co-operative to insubordinate, anti-social, unruly, and in a few cases, malevolent."

They came across two cases of junior boys being out of control. On the first occasion, first-year pupils, were unable to find the precise cause of "the failure of communications or the breakdown in relationships."

On the second, boys were running wild in their nightclothes. This followed an incident in which a boy was badly injured by a broken glass pane in a window. The injured boy required hospital treatment.

In five months, there were 31 accident reports, half of them resulted in hospital treatment and only one was observed by an adult.

Serious offences had led to a few expulsions during the previous year, but staff were seriously concerned that a "few major offenders" still in the school could not be effectively dealt with.

# Six nurses contract Legion disease

By Andrew Vaitch

Medical Correspondent

Six nurses at St James' Hospital have been infected by Legionnaires' disease, health officials said yesterday. Antibodies to the bacteria were identified when all 4,300 health authority staff were offered blood tests.

The nurses remain fit and healthy and have continued to work, said the spokesman.

There is no evidence that the bacteria can spread from person to person, and in a young fit victim the symptoms are often no more serious than flu or a bad cold. It is generally old and infirm people who develop pneumonia.

The nurses, all women, were based in the hospital's outpatient department, thought to be the centre of the outbreak.

The death toll in the outbreak rose to 37 yesterday. The latest victim, an 80-year-old man, died at Kingsmead general hospital. Two more patients have been admitted to hospital suffering from the disease, bringing the total to 162. Two patients in intensive care are described as very poorly.

The district health manager, Mr Jim Bartlett, said: "We have sent letters inviting anyone to take a blood test if they feel ill. The nurses had tests at their request."

Eight cases in other parts of Britain have been reported to the Department of Health since April, the Health Minister Kenneth Clarke said in a Commons answer. He told Labour's health spokesman, Mr Frank Dobson, that there had been three cases in Portsmouth, including one death, one fatal case each in Bristol and Birmingham, and one each in Sheffield, Leicester, and London.

About 5 per cent of all pneumonia cases each year are attributed to Legionnaire's Disease.

# Ambush trial jury gets conflicting strike advice

Members of the jury in the taxi ambush trial in which three miners are accused were told by the judge yesterday not to let their views on the miners' strikes affect their judgment.

But counsel for one of the two men accused of murdering the taxi driver, Mr David Wilkie, said that the jury could not get to the bottom of the case unless they kept the strike, and its effects on the community, in mind as a background.

Summing up at the seventh day of the trial at Cardiff Crown Court, Mr Justice Mann told the jury: "You must not be moved by feelings you have about the strike, nor the part violence played in the dispute."

Neither should they be moved by natural feelings of sympathy for the defendants or for Mr Wilkie.

Two miners, Dean Hancock and Russell Shankland, both 21, of Rhymney, mid-Glamorgan, were charged with the duty of murdering Mr Wilkie, who died when a concrete post and block pushed off a bridge hit his car as he ferried a miner to work last November.

In his closing speech Mr John Prosser, QC, defending Shankland, spoke of the pressure in the Rhymney mining village during the strike as "a year of shame."

He asked the jury to bring to a manslaughter verdict because of evidence that Shankland had never intended to kill or cause serious injury to the driver or his passenger.

A third Rhymney miner, Anthony Williams, aged 26, has been charged with murder on the judge's direction but faces two charges of conspiring to damage the taxi endangering the lives of its occupants.

The trial was adjourned until today, when the jury will retire.

# OBITUARY

## French artist

FRENCH painter and sculptor Jean Dubuffet has died in Paris, aged 53.

Appreciation, page 10

# MoD blames secrets in street on mail

By David Fairhall

Defence Correspondent

The Ministry of Defence declined yesterday to accept responsibility for a mail bag full of classified naval documents found lying on a London street or to admit that its loss could become a political embarrassment.

"There will not be an MoD inquiry," a spokesman said almost defiantly. "The security of the Royal Mail is a matter for the Post Office. There is no reason to believe that any defence regulations have been broken, but we shall be happy to assist the Post Office in their inquiry."

The response is based on the fact that the contents of the mail bag — documents, computer tapes and blueprints on their way between the naval bases at Portsmouth and Plymouth — were classified only "restricted" or "confidential". Up to that level it is standard practice to send material through the civil post, provided that its nature is disguised by enclosing a letter in a second, less obviously identifiable envelope.

The embarrassing fact remains, however, that this is the third instance of defence documents being found lying around in the past couple of weeks and Mr's were quick yesterday to demand an explanation.

Labour's former navy minister, Mr Pat Duffy, said he found the repeated losses deflating as well as worrying. "This did not used to happen in the defence department," he said, "but it is happening now with increased frequency. If there is one department about all where documents should not so readily go missing it is obviously the Ministry of Defence. This latest find clearly calls for a full scale investigation."

The Conservative MP for Tyne-mouth, Mr Neville Trotter, also demanded an immediate investigation. "A full explanation is required from the Secretary of State for Defence," he said. "The language used by those who found this mail bag may not have been very polite, but they expressed the truth."

Mr Trotter was referring to the messages found written on letters and packages when the mail bag was handed over to the Press Association by three young men who said they found it in a puddle outside Warren Street Underground station just before eleven on Tuesday night — next door to the headquarters of M5's Counter-Intelligence section. "We could have been fucking Russians," said one message. "Carelessness costs lives," said another.

The youngsters said they had just come out of a hamburger restaurant when they saw the mail bag lying on the pavement. "There was a box by the side of it marked with an army pay code or something like that," one of them told

the PA's night reporter, "but we didn't bother with it. We carried the mail bag back to my place and had a look to see what was inside. We then rang the Press Association."

The bag was later handed to police and on to the MoD. The Post Office has meanwhile launched its own "thorough investigation" to discover how it was lost.

The loss comes only a fortnight after the Ministry announced an inquiry into how documents marked "Nato restricted" were found in a rubbish skip at Charlton in south-east London. At the same time the Royal Navy began its own investigation into how a booklet describing procedures for dealing with nuclear radiation came to be found near the Portland naval base in Dorset. Since then, further defence papers have been handed into the West Lancashire Evening Gazette by a man who said he found them in a Manchester scrapyard.

On the second, boys were running wild in their nightclothes. This followed an incident in which a boy was badly injured by a broken glass pane in a window. The injured boy required hospital treatment.

In five months, there were 31 accident reports, half of them resulted in hospital treatment and only one was observed by an adult.

Serious offences had led to a few expulsions during the previous year, but staff were seriously concerned that a "few major offenders" still in the school could not be effectively dealt with.

The situation was deteriorating and was "liable to result in crisis."

The school was opened in 1861 by the then London County Council as a boarding grammar school. It was reorganised as a comprehensive in 1977.

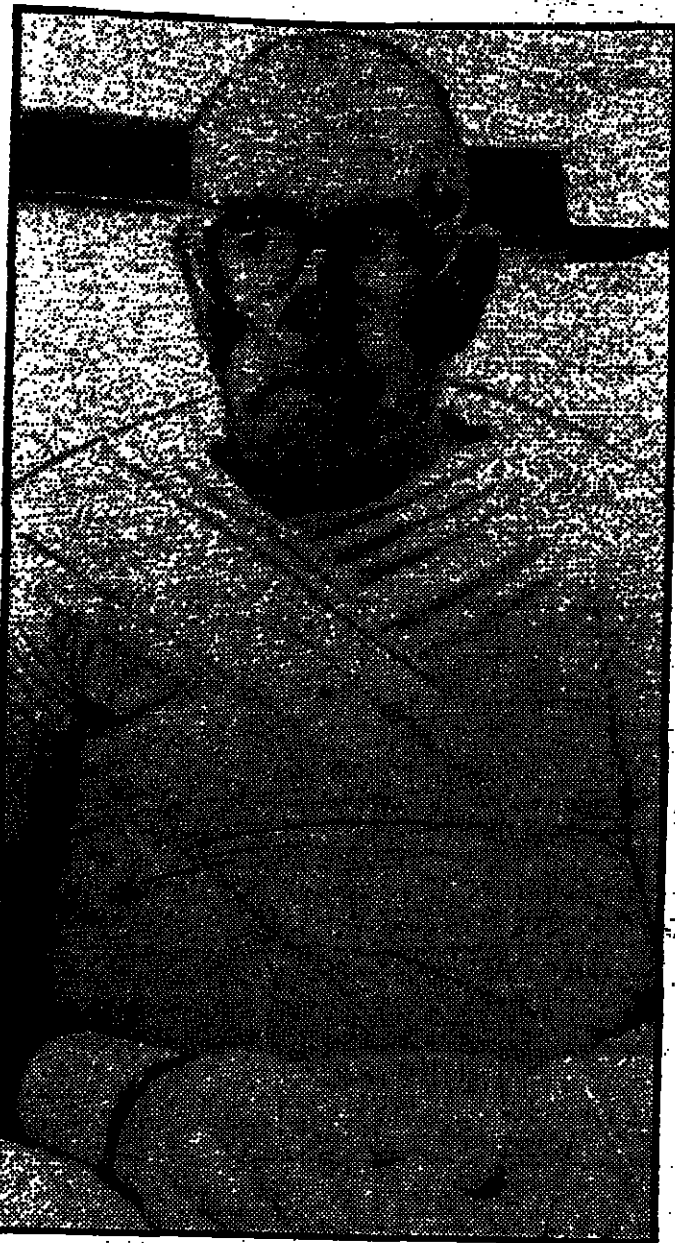
The Department of Education said yesterday that it was aware that some action had already been taken but the Education Secretary would appreciate a "full account of that, as well as of further action planned."

A statement from Ilea said it was aware of problems being encountered at Woolverstone Hall.

Measures already planned to strengthen the school included the appointment of additional house parents to improve the care and supervision of pupils

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Kenneth Perriman: 'All hell broke loose — people were screaming and jostling each other'

## Fire victims relive Bradford ordeal

Malcolm Pithers visits burns unit and hears some of the injured recount what happened to them

The appalling scale of the human tragedy in the wake of the Bradford fire was still etched on the faces of those fighting for their lives in one of the country's main burns units in Yorkshire yesterday.

Nine people, the youngest 33, the oldest 79, including a father and son, are being treated by a team of plastic surgeons, doctors and nurses who have scarcely left their sides since they were rushed to the regional burns unit at Pinderfields Hospital in Wakefield on Saturday. The nine are the most seriously injured people who survived the fire.

Four of them, William Stacey, Eric Hudson, Herbert Bamford, all 72, and Mr Bamford's son Miles, 33, are fighting for their lives. They are listed as "critical" and it seems unlikely, say the doctors, that they are aware of what happened to them.

They are in isolated rooms, bandaged like mummies within the sterile areas of the unit where, even flowers are not allowed because of the increased risk of infection.

The health authorities yesterday allowed some journalists to visit the unit, under strict precautions, to talk to three patients about their ordeal. The patients spoke for exactly four minutes each, the same time it took for the foot-stand to burn down. Some of them face many months in hospital and years of operations on their faces, hands, backs, and legs.

The health authorities said they were allowing journalists to visit the unit for the first time because of the worldwide concern.

The burns unit is a purpose-built wing of the main hospital with an international reputation for its work. It has dealt with 1,700 patients since it opened in 1965, but Saturday's disaster was the first time the unit had been involved in the county's major accident plan. Never had so many severely injured people been admitted to it in a single day.

Dr John Settle, the director of the unit, himself a surgeon, said it would be very surprising if all nine men and women being treated survived.

The three patients who were able to talk about their ordeal spoke with riveting clarity about Saturday afternoon, the moment clearly seared in the minds for ever.

Duncan Firth, aged 57, who is "very ill", was sitting with his fully bandaged arms hoisted upwards. He was drinking through a straw. He cannot feel any pain because his nerve ends have been damaged.

Mr Firth said he remembered seeing some movement from people and walked along a row towards the back of the stand. When the crowd started to move because of the fire he realised that the doors at the back of the stand would be shut.

He said: "We were suddenly hit by a great ball of black smoke that seemed to come racing past us. The pitch lights went out with a bang and it was all black. I thought, 'my wife, who is being treated in St Luke's Hospital in Brad-



Joan Williamson: her rescuer apologised

ford. A picture of his wife and relatives was near his bedside yesterday.

Kenneth Perriman, aged 76, a retired fireman who worked for the Bradford City Fire Brigade for 30 years, spoke haltingly.

He said he thought he saw some smoke and at first assumed that someone had set off a small smoke bomb before.

He started to walk away from the smoke and instinctively knew that the gates would not be open. Suddenly, all hell broke loose. People were struggling out of their seats, screaming and jostling each other.

The heat was getting intense. The flames moved quickly along the roof and hit office buildings in front of him and then bounced into a fireball. He said: "I have never prayed so hard."

His anorak and cap were on fire and his back was blistered from top to bottom. He said: "The first night I was in here I could not go to sleep. Every time I shut my eyes I remember that wall of flame."

Joan Williamson, a 58-year-old widow, explained that she had been saved by someone who had seen her hair on fire. The person had dragged her across the seats, apologising as he did so.

Mrs Williamson said: "If it had not been for him I would have been dead. The heat was horrible, horrible. I was very very lucky. I'm in loads of pain, but it's better than being dead."

Dr Settle said some of the patients would have to spend at least three months in hospital and undergo many lengthy operations over the next few years. Some were unconscious and were having to be supported by ventilation equipment.

He said he could not describe individual injuries or talk about survival chances in particular cases.

While the struggle for survival continued in the hospital, hundreds of people packed into St Patrick's Parish Church in Bradford to mourn those who died. Bradford City football players, the club chairman Mr Stafford Hegginbotham, relatives, friends and survivors stood in silence as a mark of respect.

School friends of the 10 children who died were weeping, leaning on each other.

A joint inquest into the deaths will be opened tomorrow in Bradford. Evidence of identification will be taken from police officers, after which it is expected that the inquest will be adjourned.

## FitzGerald stands firm over US trip

From Joe Joyce in Dublin

The Irish Prime Minister, Dr Garret FitzGerald, and the Opposition leader, Mr Charles Haughey, yesterday crossed swords in a acrimonious debate over a two-week visit by Dr FitzGerald to North America.

Amid repeated heckling, Dr FitzGerald defended his itinerary, which included an official visit to Canada, meetings with Irish American groups in the United States and a private session of an international discussion group known as the Bilderberg Conference.

He rejected Opposition criticism of his activities as a "mean, narrow and warped attempt to gain short term political advantage" at the expense of Irish interests. Opposition descriptions of his engagements as being "of no consequence" were gratuitous insults to Canadians and Irish Americans, he said.

His critics had drawn attention to the length of the visit and accused the Prime Minister specifically of jeopardising Irish neutrality by attending the Bilderberg Conference and of abandoning the New Ireland Forum report.

He denied attending discussions on Nato at the Bilderberg meeting and said that support was growing in the US for peaceful progress in Northern Ireland.

Mr Haughey accused Dr FitzGerald of a serious neglect of duty by spending so long abroad.

## House grants could spell loss for owner

By Geoff Andrews, Local Government Correspondent

A Government plan to reorganise housing improvement grants could lead to house owners making a loss when they subsequently sell their homes.

This is the conclusion of economists at the Institute of Housing who have analysed the green paper, Home Improvement: A New Approach, which was launched last week by the Housing Minister, Mr Ian Gow. They also believe that the changes contemplated would effectively end the grants for bathrooms and lavatories by imposing impossible criteria.

The green paper proposes a system of interest-free loans for repair grants. These grants, available to applicants after a stringent means test, would become part of the equity of the property.

If, for example, the house was valued at £10,000 and the repairs cost a further £10,000, the local authority which awarded the grant would have a half share in the house. When the house appreciated in value the grant repayable would increase pro rata.

The institute's economists say the officials who drafted the green paper have not taken account of a crucial factor known as the valuation gap in their calculations. The valuation gap reflects the established fact that money spent on repairing a house does not produce an equivalent increase in the value of the property.

If, therefore, the owner of the £10,000 house had a high mortgage, say £8,000 and the improved house made only £15,000 when he came to sell he would owe the local authority £2,500, have to clear off the outstanding mortgage and meet all the legal costs. This would mean a total loss of well over £1,000.

The Housing Institute fears that building societies would be increasingly reluctant to lend on the kind of run-down property most likely to qualify under the new system for fear that the new owners could become involved in such a penalty.

The institute, the governing body for local government housing officers, will be taking a dim view of the justification for the changes in its formal response to the proposals, particularly the idea of a means test. It believes that the changes could lead to the entire system withering away.

One calculation suggests that the new fitness standards would leave only about 1.5 million homes qualifying for mandatory grants for unit housing even if all the people living in them could afford to top up the grants for the improvement.

While accepting many of the cosmetic changes envisaged in the green paper, the institute is also likely to scorn new ideas for blanket improvements to run-down areas in co-operation with landlords and private developers as unworkable or too open to abuse.

## Special religious classes irk Christians and Jews

By Andrew Moneur, Education Staff

Christian and Jewish parents are pressing schools to provide the same special faith teaching demanded by Muslims and other minorities, a report says today.

"This reaction may take the form of a feeling that their own traditions are being upstaged by the ethnic minorities," the result is a Jewish or Christian demand for similar and equal treatment," it says.

The report has been prepared by a working party set up in 1982 by the Religious Education Council of England and Wales, which comprises 27 organisations representing many faiths.

It recommends that all senior pupils should be able to receive religious education, and its "obvious and culpa-

ble neglect" above third form level in many secondary schools.

The problem has been partly caused by the lack of staff qualified in religious education and capable of coping with "uncertainty regarding society's expectations of them."

The report says there is evidence of a psychological reaction among Jewish and Christian communities—including those of Caribbean origin—to the pressure brought by Muslims and others in secondary schools.

The report proposes that all county schools should include in their curriculum religious other than Christianity and non-theistic moral outlooks. Attention to religious and other philosophical bases should be included in any integrated programme of personal and social education.

## Museum is given Blakes

By Donald Wintergill, Arts Section Correspondent

THE Government has handed to the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, a collection of paintings, drawings, and prints by William Blake and his circle, valued at some £200,000.

The collection was owned by the late Sir Geoffrey Keynes, the brother of John Maynard Keynes, and was acquired by the Government in lieu of tax on his estate.

Sir Geoffrey, who died three years ago in his nineties, was a distinguished surgeon, bibliographer and collector. He was an authority

on John Donne and Jane Austen as well as Blake. Other items on Blake collected by Sir Geoffrey have been loaned to the Fitzwilliam. He sold his books about Blake to Cambridge University Library shortly before his death.

Also handed to the Fitzwilliam by the Government is Sir Geoffrey's collection of drawings and prints by Stephen Goudeon, one of the leading Copperplate engravers of this century.

The British Museum receives Blake's engraving, Mirth, and the National Portrait Gallery receives a portrait by Raverat of Robert Brooke and a painting by Duncan Grant.

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## Subs equipped with weapons which fail to work effectively

### MPs learn of fault in Navy's torpedo system

By Richard Norton-Taylor

The navy has for six years continued to equip submarines with a torpedo system—costing £851 million to develop—despite its failure to work effectively, MPs have been told.

First indications that problems were still faced with Marconi's weapon—code-named Tigerfish—came in a report to all-party public accounts committee last month by Sir Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor-General.

They were confirmed for the first time on Monday night when Mr Peter Levene, the new head of the Ministry of Defence arms procurement agency, discussed the matter with the MPs, mainly in secret session.

Mr Levene said: "The torpedo itself operates effectively: the whole weapons system does not." The hearings immediately went into private session and the press was asked to leave.

The Tigerfish is a wire-guided torpedo controlled by a computer on board the submarine. It is understood that this control system which is causing the problems. But



Mr Peter Levene: discussions in secret

until the new Spearfish project—also developed by Marconi—is operational it will remain the Navy's main heavy-weight torpedo.

Nuclear-powered submarines—including the Conqueror, which sank the Belgrano during the Falklands conflict—are equipped with the weapon. But the Conqueror's commander, Christopher Wreford-Brown, chose to attack the Belgrano with two conventional, diesel-driven torpedoes of a much older design.

Wreford-Brown has since been seconded to Marconi as an adviser on torpedo production. Sir Gordon noted in his report that the MoD conducted four separate inquiries into the Tigerfish between 1980 and 1982. It concluded that no one was put in charge of the project, that there was no prime contractor "to draw the weapon system together in industry" and that different branches in the ministry, and the Navy and the private companies involved failed to communicate satisfactorily.

Sir Gordon suggested that the Tigerfish should be abandoned as soon as possible and replaced by the Spearfish, chosen by the Government in 1981 instead of a rival and cheaper American weapon.

David Fairhall adds: Rolls-Royce has teamed with the German firm KHD and Williams International in the United States to study development of a miniature jet engine for a new Nato cruise missile. Known as the long range stand-off missile (LRSOM), the weapon will be fitted to aircraft like the RAF's Tornado bomber for attacks on eastern Europe's "hard" targets such as airfields and communications centres, without the risk of overflying their defences.

## Drug trials code urged

A code of practice is needed urgently to safeguard drug trial volunteers, the Labour MP, Mr Jack Ashley, told the Health Minister, Mr Kenneth Clarke, yesterday.

The Department of Health should set up and monitor the code, Mr Ashley said in a letter to the minister.

Proposals from the Royal College of Physicians earlier this week were inadequate to ensure that young people were

not selling their health, he added.

The code should provide compensation to healthy volunteers injured during trials, with the benefit of any doubt with the volunteer, and they should be given written statements of the risks.

No volunteer tests should be performed until there had been animal tests approved by the Medicines Commission, which should be given details of all adverse reactions and payments.

## Animal experiments soon to be curbed

By Penny Chorlton

Stricter controls of experiments on living animals should become law within a year.

Proposed legislation was published yesterday in a white paper presented by the Secretary of State at the Home Office, Mr David Mellor.

The law would significantly tighten the rules on the use of animals in laboratories, he said. It would change the present system of controlling animal experiments, create a new body to oversee them, impose tighter limits on permissible experiments, and increase penalties for breaking the law.

For the first time, projects will have to be individually licensed by the Home Office, as well as the scientists involved. The severity of the pain in proposed research will be evaluated before a licence is granted.

Draize tests, which measure eye irritation, and LD50 tests, which signify the single dose needed to kill 50 per cent of a group of animals, would be considerably harder to justify by the new "dual licensing" system, said Mr Mellor.

But any animal experiment—no matter how unpleasant—might be justified in the interests of medical advancement and finding cures for such diseases as Herpes, Aids, and Legionnaire's Disease. "If we are to find the answer to

Aids, it will be only through the use of animals," said Mr Mellor.

A new animal procedures committee will be set up to advise the Home Secretary.

The white paper lists the diseases eradicated through experiments on animals, and says: "Research into cancer, arthritis, multiple sclerosis, and many unsolved areas of disease in man and animals, often crippling, must continue."

"Medicines and vaccines must be tested for safety. Fundamental research into the cause of disease must not be abandoned. Much of this work has necessarily involved sci-

entific procedures on living animals."

The number of experiments is falling, the white paper says, but there is much scope for further progress. The Government is to put more money into research on alternative methods to show its determination to see progress made in this field as rapidly as possible.

The paper says: "Animal experiments that are unnecessary, use unnecessarily large numbers of animals, or are unnecessarily painful, are indefensible."

Mr Mellor criticised the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, which has issued

leaflets suggesting that the new legislation would take away what few rights animals currently have. "It's this climate of unreason that has been behind the neglect of this subject for so long," he said.

"We have decided to take on the hosts of unreason, even though we know we are going to face bombardment from accurate propaganda from extremists. It is unpleasant to carry responsibility in an area where there are so many people willing to display their unreasonableness."

The National Anti-Vivisection Society, meanwhile, attacked what it called the "vivisection charter". "The failure of successive governments to pay heed to public opinion, and to our reasoned argument, has resulted in the formation of groups prepared to take direct and violent action," said the society's general secretary, Mr Brian Gunn.

The RSPCA said the white paper would go some way towards reducing the level of pain in experiments, the use of animals used, and the promotion of humane alternatives.

Dr Judith Hampson, the RSPCA's chief animal experimentation research officer, said, however, "We would like to see greater scope for outside assessment of projects."

## Nurses to get more academic training

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

Proposals to change the education and training of England's 50,000 student nurses were announced yesterday by the English National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting.

The present two- and three-year courses would be replaced by a three-year qualification with a greater emphasis on academic training.

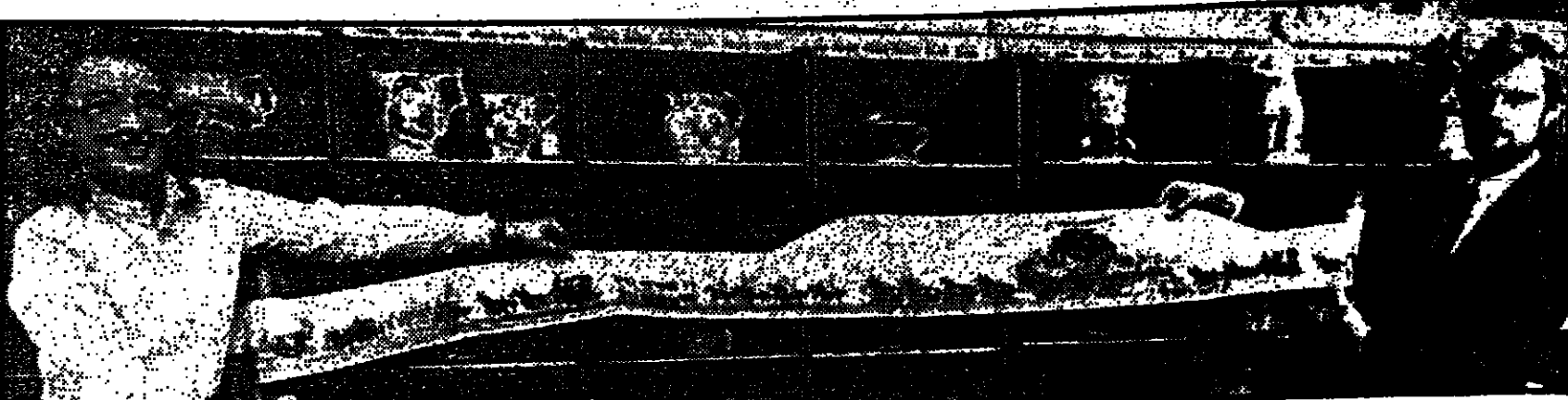
The board, which is responsible for the validation of courses run by 170 colleges, says changes are necessary because existing training courses are facing a crisis caused by falling recruitment and a failure of many hospital-based courses to provide proper educational content.

The proposals, which follow stringent criticism of the present system by a commission set up by the Royal College of Nursing, could be approved by October.

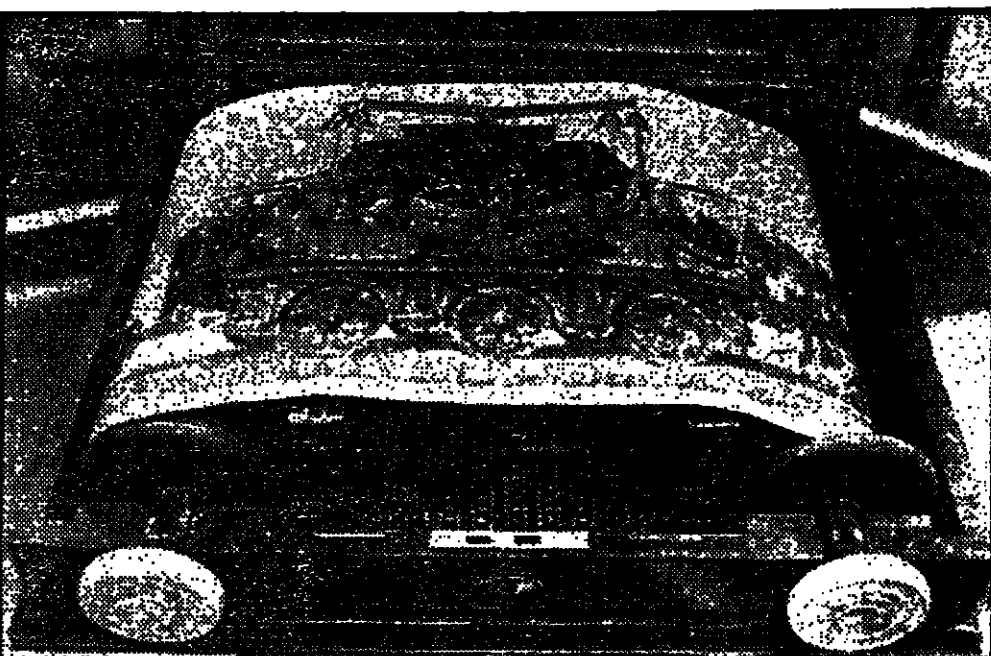
Under the proposals, all nurses would take a three-year course, starting with a common curriculum. They would, however, continue to specialise and qualify as registered general nurses in hospital care, district care, mental nursing and mental handicap.

The board is opposed to the Royal College of Nursing's submission that entry be restricted to those with two passes at A-level. The board also wants to retain more independent nursing schools by encouraging them to merge rather than be incorporated into polytechnics and colleges.

The board, unlike the Royal College of Nursing, has the power to implement the changes without waiting for the United Kingdom Central Council on Nursing, which is also looking at the long-term implications of training, to approve the details.



LONG AND SHORT OF IT: The world's longest etching—a 66ft coloured aquatint showing the funeral procession of the Duke of Wellington—sold at Christie's, London, yesterday for £2,400. It can be viewed in bulk (above) with the aid of two helpers or in detail (below) in a box in which the print can be rolled along. It was produced in 1853 by Henry Alken.



## Nuclear material disposal 'increases public's exposure to radiation'

By David Hearst

A senior official of the National Radiological Protection board admitted yesterday that the disposal of nuclear waste exposed workers in the industry and the public to greater levels of radiation than if the waste was stored.

Mr Geoff Webb, assistant director in charge of operations at the NRPB, was giving evidence to the Commons select committee on the environment, which is conducting an inquiry into radioactive waste.

While admitting that radioactive spent fuel at Sellafield and the disposal of waste into the Irish Sea meant higher radiation doses for workers and the public, he stressed his board's view that storage would

merely delay, not solve, the problem of disposal.

In evidence to the committee the NRPB said Sellafield was the main contributor in the UK and Europe to the exposure of population to radiation from effluents.

In its written evidence, the board said: "The risks to people from these discharges are not in absolute terms very high."

"Nevertheless, they are above the levels which the board would expect to be achieved, taking into account the ALARA requirement (that all exposures should be kept as low as reasonably achievable, taking economic and social factors into account) and other factors such as the availability and reliability of appropriate technology."

The board said it welcomed measures taken by British Nuclear Fuels Ltd to reduce discharges of caesium and actinides.

On future practice, the board favoured disposal rather than storing low and intermediate level solid radioactive wastes.

Even though radiation doses incurred by disposal are higher, the board concluded that there were no technical advantages in continuing to store wastes and it did not appear worthwhile to construct new long-term stores.

The board added that to increase public confidence it may be possible to dispose of waste so it can be retrieved for checking.

## Symptoms of Aids

By Andrew Veitch, Medical Correspondent

British Medical Officer, Dr Donald Acheson, yesterday sent all doctors the latest medical information on Aids in a move aimed at ensuring that all victims are identified as swiftly as possible.

Dr Acheson warns: "Although only 150 cases have been reported, Aids will undoubtedly become substantially more frequent in the immediate future and cases will occur most widely throughout the country."

Doctors are given advice on diagnosis, and are urged to report all cases to the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre at Colindale. The document details risk groups, measures to control the spread of the disease, safety precautions to be taken in treating patients and handling blood samples.

Doctors are advised to watch out for symptoms such as lethargy, depression, personality change, memory impairment and intellectual deterioration.

## BNFL gets approval for waste plant at Sellafield

By a Correspondent

British Nuclear Fuels Ltd has been given planning permission to build a large plant at Sellafield in Cumbria for encapsulation of intermediate level nuclear waste.

But Copeland Council in Whitehaven has limited the plant's storage capacity to 5,500 cubic metres, a sixth of the size wanted by BNFL to prevent it becoming a long-term waste depot.

Alternative storage facilities have not yet been proposed at the local level. The council says it is prepared to discuss the issue with the Government, BNFL and Nirex, the agency which lays down guidelines for nuclear waste disposal.

The plant at Sellafield (formerly known as Windscale), which will take five years to build, will take liquid waste with concrete for storage in steel drums.

The leader of the Labour-controlled council, Mr James Johnston, said: "We are of the opinion that Windscale is not appropriate for long-term

## Civil Service unions' merger plan fails

By John Ardill, Labour Staff

The creation of a 230,000-strong Civil Service union linking the clerical and executive grades was put off, if not killed, yesterday by a clear vote against the proposals at the Brighton conference of the Civil and Public Services Association.

Supporters and opponents of the move were agreed that a fresh attempt is unlikely within the next three to five years.

The Society of Civil and Public Servants representing about 85,000 executives, voted overwhelmingly in favour of the merger on Tuesday. Yesterday's CPSA majority of 86,181 to 88,981 for a resolution rejecting the terms reflected suspicions of joining forces with the managers as well as dissatisfaction with the details of the proposal among many members who favoured the amalgamation in principle.

Ms Kate Losinska, the president, who opposed the terms, said afterwards: "Many members are not yet ready to merge with that particular union." There had been a lot of animosity between the two unions over lack of SCPS support for CPSA industrial action.

The CPSA general secretary, Mr Alastair Graham, said he was deeply disappointed that the union had rejected the opportunity of restructuring Civil Service unions. Although the issue would not disappear it would take a new development to bring it back on to the agenda. Attempts by the 37,000-strong Civil Service Union to seek a merger might help produce new discussions.

Mr Graham blamed not only opposition to joining with managers, but also the "crucial" attitude of the CPSA's militant

tendency group, which initially supported the merger but for the most part opposed the terms. He accused the group of a "totally cynical" pursuit of its own future within the Civil Service trade union movement.

Militant and some of the moderate group combined to defeat the proposition, an alliance defended by Mrs Losinska as a marriage of convenience. Mr Graham said that a merger would have eventually produced a stable moderate majority in the combined union.

Mrs Losinska said the union's executive, which is expected to revert to moderate control when election results are declared today, would be examining Mr Graham's decision to organise personally a fringe meeting on Tuesday in support of the merger.

The conference voted unanimously in favour of industrial action in support of any trade unionist that GCHQ dismissed by the Government for refusing to give up union membership. Three CPSA members are under current threat of disciplinary action.



Kate Losinska: veiled threat to Alastair Graham

## Guard for orchids

By Sarah Roseley

CONSERVATIONISTS in Essex held a sit-in at a roadside meadow yesterday, in an attempt to save rare green-winged orchids.

About 20 people spent the day guarding the purple flowers of an estimated 15,000 plants which grow in the meadow in West Mersea. They hope that the Government will ratify an order applied for by the Nature Conservancy Council to turn the two-acre field into a site of special scientific interest.

A building company, W. A. Salmon and Sons, of Colchester, has applied on behalf of the owner of the land, Sir Philip Underwood, to build seven houses there. Previous planning permission on the site, said to have a development value of more than £100,000 because it overlooks the sea, has expired.

The Nature Conservancy Council sees this as a particularly difficult case, because the land-owner does not stand to be compensated

## Gaol strip admission

Male warders helped to strip a female prisoner, the Home Office Minister, Mr David Mellor, admitted last night. He said in a Commons written reply that the Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, had given orders that it would not happen again.

Mr Mellor said the incident happened at Pucklechurch prison centre for unsentenced prisoners in Bristol. He said: "Because of the female staff available at night male staff at Pucklechurch have assisted in restraining disturbed female prisoners while the was stripped and placed in protective clothing by female staff."

"We regret this and the Home Secretary has instructed that arrangements should be made to ensure that it does not happen again."

The news was welcomed by Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Opposition spokesman on Home Affairs, who had asked about the incident. He said: "It is absolutely appalling."

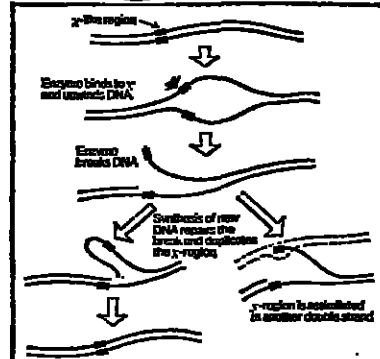
## Faces. Lasers. DNA. Lignin.



Faces that fit the bill. Could you describe a villain after only a fleeting glimpse? Psychologists at Aberdeen have found a better way to remember faces.



Lasers break out of the laboratory. The laser is 25 years old today. Once it was dubbed "a solution looking for a problem." Now it is found in thousands of living rooms.



Selfish DNA comes of age. Geneticists are beginning to explain the mechanisms by which discrete sequences of genes can subvert Mendelian hereditary processes to their advantage.



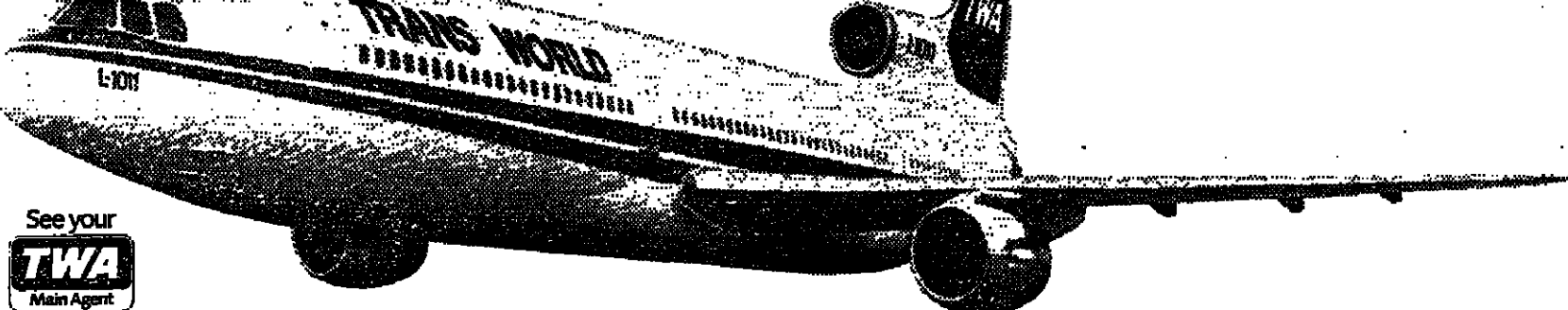
Lignin: biotechnology's new money spinner? A fungal enzyme that can decontaminate water and make plastics from straw could make biotechnologists rich.

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Every morning at 11.00 TWA flight 755 takes off from Heathrow for Philadelphia. It arrives at 13.45, where you'll be greeted with brotherly love. This is the only non-stop service to Philadelphia. TWA flies to over 60 US cities. See your TWA Main Agent.

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# IT SEEMS THAT AWARDS ARE STANDARD EQUIPMENT ON THE NEW MONTEGO.

## FIVE MAJOR AWARDS FOR MONTEGO IN TEN SHORT MONTHS.

For a car that's only been on the road a short while, the Montego has built quite a winning reputation.

Not that we weren't anticipating success when the first full scale model sailed through its wind-tunnel test with an unbroken trail of smoke caressing the car's contours to record a drag coefficient of just 0.37.

That the accolades should come so thick and fast is something of a pleasant surprise. But this was only a beginning.

## 'MOTOR' MAKES US 'THE BEST MIDDLEWEIGHT' IN DECEMBER 1984.

'Motor' magazine was the first to register its respect of the Montego.

We quote "the Montego poses a potent threat to Ford and GM in the middle-weight ranks.

The Montego's strength lies in its being such an accomplished all-rounder.

The 1.6L that saw off Ford's Sierra, Vauxhall's Cavalier and Toyota's Carina in a Group Test confrontation earlier this year, doubled up very respectable performance and economy\* with good refinement, secure well-balanced handling, a fine ride, a slick gear change and

## THAT SAME MONTH, MONTEGO FLIES THE FLAG AS FLEET CAR OF THE YEAR.

That most critical of buying groups, the fleet owners through the medium of 'Fleet Facts', sat in judgement on the Montego and countless other vehicles in December.

Theirs was basically 'a cost of ownership' test based on a 2 year/40,000 miles calculation.

This calculation took into account estimates of future maintenance and depreciation costs and fuel consumption.

When the calculators were put away the Montego was put in first place.

Having satisfied these astute buyers, the Montego moved on to other accolades.

## IN APRIL, 'WHAT CAR?' VOTED MONTEGO THE BEST FAMILY SALOON.

In competition with 26 illustrious rivals the Montego 1.6HL took

space, the style and luxury of the trim.

It spoke highly of the equipment, good performance and economy.\*

All in all, journalists who really know their business, described it as "a well thought-out machine that shines in many areas where its rivals are merely competent.

The spiciest family saloon on the market and, like all Austins, is cheap to service and little bother to maintain, with many dealers."

There was more to come.

## THE SAME ISSUE MADE MONTEGO ESTATE CAR OF THE YEAR.

Like its saloon counterpart, the Montego 1.6L estate took the Best Estate Car category by a wide margin. "At last" 'What Car?' proclaimed, "Austin Rover have an estate car that leads the field."

"As a five seater mid-price estate we can with confidence say the car has no peer, and there are

excellent load space; good performance; big dealer back-up and the reasonable price tag.

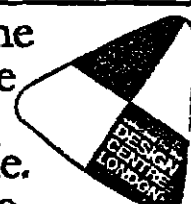
And, talking of tags...

## TO COMPLETE THE SET, THE MONTEGO RANGE WAS SELECTED TO CARRY THE COVETED DESIGN CENTRE TRIANGLE.

The Montego is the first range of cars to be selected to carry the Design Centre triangle. The Council made the decision based on the following outstanding features.

The Montego's space packaging; roadholding, and handling; low wind noise; ventilation; bootspace and good attention to detail (that attention to detail included our unique adjustable front seatbelt anchorage points so that both small and large people can properly adjust their belts to the correct position).

Judge for yourself just how right the Design Council was by simply phoning 0272 217 217.



outstanding interior space. Add to that conventional good looks and a high standard of interior appointment for the price, and it's not hard to see why the Austin makes such an effective package". Unquote.

this category by a clear margin. "The excellence of Austin's family saloon makes it an easy winner."

"What Car?" was particularly impressed with the interior

few rivals able to carry an extra two passengers on (optional) rear-facing luggage compartment seats, either.

To sum up, 'What Car?' was impressed by the luxury trim;

That call will organise an extended Montego test drive at a local Austin Rover dealer who'll be only too pleased to demonstrate how you can "Take off in style."



AUSTIN ROVER



## The Montego. Winning is part of the specification.

Car shown - Montego 1.6HL Saloon. Prices range from 1.3 Saloon at £3,585 to the MG Montego Turbo Saloon at £10,391. \*Manufacturer's data. DOT figures: Montego 1.6L and 1.6HL Saloons simulated urban cycle 31.9mpg/8.9L per 100km. Constant 56mpg/5.3L per 100km. Constant 75mpg/3.8mpg/7.3L per 100km. Prices correct at time of going to press, excluding number plates and delivery. NATIONWIDE CAR RENTAL RESERVATIONS THROUGH BRITISH CAR RENTALS, TEL: 0203 77223. AUSTIN ROVER TAX-FREE SALES INFORMATION - TEL: 021-475 2101 EXT. 224.



## Senators call for 'moral' policy to tackle guerrillas

# US embassy readiness tested by mock terror

From Michael White in Washington

The United States is conducting a programme of mock hijackings, bombings, and assaults on its own embassies around the world to test their readiness against terrorist attack.

Mr Robert Oakley, director of the Office for Counterterrorism, told congressmen yesterday that during the year "about two dozen" exercises would be held at embassies in high-risk areas. These, his testimony suggested, would be the Middle East, Latin America, and Western Europe, scene of most terrorist attacks last year.

In one example he was prepared to cite, a simulated hijack and earthquake was arranged for the US embassy in Santiago, Chile—three days before a real earthquake occurred. As elsewhere, performance had been improved.

The programme, about which key security personnel are believed to be warned, was reshaped after the disastrous attack on America's Beirut embassy in 1983. On the trend observable in the first quarter of this year—nearly 200 incidents—1983 could produce a record number of terrorist operations, 60 per cent up on 1983.

Mr Oakley's evidence on counter-terrorism before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee came just three days after revelations that counter-terrorist units which the CIA had helped to train in Lebanon may have sponsored a freelance attack in Beirut in March in which more than 80 people died. He and the Pentagon's witness, an under-secretary, Mr Fred Ikle, were the targets of oblique criticism from some Democrats.

Senator Thomas Eagleton of Missouri complained that the Beirut incident highlighted the often contradictory postures of the Administration on the response to terrorism. It called, he said, for a public debate. But the senators did not get it all their own way, and Mr Ikle pointedly stated that since Congress had chosen to make itself "co-responsible" for tactical intelligence operations with the Administration, it had better cooperate "to restore a level of discipline in protecting sensitive information."

Both witnesses protested at the record of some friendly governments in either harbouring terrorists — France — or releasing them, on the grounds of political opportunism — Italy. They said that the surge in international cooperation after an outrage like the Libyan embassy shooting in London had soon been replaced by "the normal bureaucratic reasons for inaction" in Britain and Western Europe.

The US is unusual in having little threat of domestic terror, unlike in the late 1960s, although a recurrence is predicted by some. But Americans and US interests are the object of 30 to 35 per cent of the terrorist attacks in the world.

With both officials describing the familiar pattern of the main terrorist groups, their relationship with each other and the drugs trade, and predicting that they would "escalate the carnage in order to maintain the shock value of their operations," the principal interest yesterday was Mr Oakley's description of the inter-departmental group on terrorism, established by President Reagan. Chaired by the Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, it embraces key departments, including the National Security Council, the FBI, the CIA, and the Pentagon.

Liaison with other governments and intelligence coordination—where the US had been weak—was something the US was trying to improve, Mr Oakley said.

From our own Correspondent in Brussels

The EEC is to double its aid to Central America, including Nicaragua, in a move seen as a deliberate rebuff to the US over its trade embargo against the Sandinistas.

The decision, announced yesterday by the Brussels Commission, is chiefly the work of Mr Claude Cheysson, the former French foreign minister and now Commissioner responsible for the region.

The assistance, in the form of trade concessions, development money and food aid, will be worth a total of £240 million to the six Central American states over the next five years.

In Caracas, representatives of 25 Latin American countries

## Police blame cult for fire in Philadelphia

Smouldering debris of 60 houses attracts hot dog stands and hundreds of sightseers

From Alex Brummer in Philadelphia

FIRE officials contended here yesterday that the Dresden-like fire bomb that flattened a comfortable three-level suburb and burnt at least seven people to death, including two children, had been set off by a cult house occupied by an extremist cult.

The search for a credible explanation for the authorities' over-reaction, which has clouded the political future of the mayor, Mr Wilson Goode and key aides, follows a local and national public outrage about the handling of the affair.

"It wasn't justified," one distraught resident in the largely black neighbourhood said. "They've got the Ku Klux Klan here but they never bomb their houses."

Mr Burton Caine, president of the Philadelphia chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, said that the device used by the police was "totally unjustified," adding

that "trained public safety officials should have known that the dropping of a bomb on a row of houses—full of ammunition and other explosives—is like lighting a match in a room full of gas."

It was also noted yesterday that if it had been a white Italian mayor of Philadelphia who had been responsible for destroying 60 middle-class black houses and rendering more than 200 people homeless, rather than the city's first black incumbent, then the country might have been torn apart by race riots.

As it is, the west Philadelphia suburb which was ruined was a Penn State helicopter dropped a "percussion" bomb on the house, occupied by the radical back-to-nature sect, MOVE, looks like a war zone.

"I was in France on VE Day and never saw anything like this," Mr Rias Sawyer said. He is an elderly black who had just been to visit his niece, a street from the

destroyed community.

"It's just like Beirut," a younger man said, hanging over the police barricade. "It's the first time a bomb ever fell on a residential neighbourhood in America."

All that remains of the area is smouldering debris and stumps of the scorched and battered dividing walls between houses.

Firemen were still pouring spray onto the hot foundations yesterday as the search for charred bodies continued. Former residents looked on forlornly across the barriers with looks of anguished disbelief on their faces.

But all around there was almost a carnival, commercial atmosphere as hot dog stands set up shop for dozens of television crews which have arrived on the scene. Special traffic police had been drafted into the area to keep away the hundreds of sightseers who descended in the bright sunshine to look at destruction in their own city.

The city managing director, Mr Leo Brophy, who last night watched on television from his office, said that some 53 of the houses which had stood since the turn of the century would have to be bulldozed after his ill-advised effort at urban counter-insurgency. Each home will cost \$70,000 to rebuild at the city's expense.

But it will be difficult to put back the mature green trees which give the area an almost suburban look. In an effort to explain how the fire bombing got out of control and the tough approach taken, the authorities argued yesterday that MOVE had been turning their two-storey house into a mini-armoury from which they could conduct a guerrilla war on the city.

"We had a tremendous amount of information that the group had built tunnels and had explosives and intended to blow up the entire block... to make interna-

l tional headlines," Mr Goode said.

The police commissioner, Mr Gregory Sambor, expanded on this, claiming that "MOVE members themselves spread flammable materials inside." He said that there was no fire for more than 10 minutes after the bomb was dropped.

What seems to have upset residents most was the grim realisation that the sect took at least two children to death with them. Mr Goode said that the police had offered to evacuate the youngsters. "You have got to be a fool to believe what they say," one resident said, adding: "I have little sympathy for the MOVE people."

The group at the centre of the affair, MOVE, is described as having a bizarre collection of ideas, disavowing the use of electricity and other forms of modern technology. The group delivered its own babies and all members took the surname of Africa.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

# Cypriot leader gives in

PRESIDENT Kyprianou of Cyprus yesterday yielded to opposition demands to be bound by collective all-party decisions about negotiations for a settlement on the divided island. If the "national council" of party leaders failed to agree on an issue it would be settled by referendum, he said.

Mr Kyprianou's decision was seen as a move designed to defuse calls by the combined rightwing and Communist opposition parties for his resignation. The Greek Cypriot parliament had previously censured Mr Kyprianou for rejecting efforts by the UN to settle problems created by the Turkish invasion of 1974 and the subsequent partition of the island.—AP.

## Lorry hero

A MILITARY truck carrying more than 1,000 hand grenades caught fire while passing through a village in southern Norway. The driver passed through the village, stopped in an open field, and arranged for hand grenades to be evacuated and roads closed before the truck exploded, police said.—Reuters.

## Long term

SINGAPORE is still holding a political detainee arrested 19 years ago for alleged Communist activities. The Home Affairs Minister, Mr Shanmugam Jayaraman, told Parliament yesterday that Chia Thye Poh, aged 45, will be released only if he renounces the underground movement and its plans to overthrow the Government.—Reuters.

## Malaria drug

INTRAVENOUS injections of the heart drug quinidine are effective in treating a severe form of malaria, the New England Journal of Medicine, Boston, reported yesterday. Many drugs have proved increasingly ineffective against malaria because the parasites responsible are becoming resistant.—Reuters.

## Hold the sauce

THE BANGLADESH Government has rejected entrepreneurs' pleas to lift a ban on the export of frogs legs because the animals help agriculture by eating insects. Dhaka scientists say that 70 million frogs spared each year will account for 100 tonnes of insects a day.—Reuters.

## Osmond divorce

SINGER Marie Osmond has filed for divorce from her husband of nearly three years after several attempts at reconciliation. Her lawyer said she had declined to disclose the problems that led to her decision to end the marriage.—Reuters.

## Another epic

THE flamboyant former vice-president of South Vietnam, Nguyen Cao Ky, plans to make a film about the war in Vietnam, with himself in the leading role, he said in Taipei yesterday.—Reuters.

## Killer executed

MURDERER Jesse de la Rosa, who killed a shop assistant six years ago in a robbery which gained him a pack of beer, was executed by injection early yesterday at Huntsville prison, Texas. De la Rosa, aged 34, was the seventh person executed in the state since 1982.

## Howe to visit

THE CHIEF Minister of Gibraltar, Sir Joshua Hassan, yesterday announced that the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, is to visit the colony next month to study economic developments since Spain reopened the border in February.—Reuters.

## Trial opened

THE JUDGE hearing the trial of Sikhs accused of murdering Indira Gandhi yesterday opened the proceedings to the press. Gaoi authorities had refused to admit reporters when the trial began on Monday.—Reuters.

## Siege ends

SEVEN Spanish long-term prisoners who held five men hostage for 18-hours at the Fontvieille Gaoi in the Northwest gave themselves up yesterday afternoon when demands for vehicles and safe passage were not met, writes Jane Walker.

## Home says spying game needs fly spray treatment

By Michael Simmons

EXPELLING Soviet spies. Lord Home of the Hiral told MPs yesterday that it was more like dealing with regular attacks of greenfly. "Now and again," he said, "you have to use the spray."

Lord Home, a distinguished gardener who was also Britain's Foreign Secretary when 105 Russians were in his own words "sent packing," was answering questions from the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Commons on Anglo-Soviet relations, and specifically on Soviet intelligence activities.

"It has become a sort of game," he said. "When I sacked all those Russian spies—105 or so—it had been going on for goodness knows how long, and it will go on again."

He had asked the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Andrei Gromyko, three times to remove them quietly. "But he declined absolutely," Lord Home said. "He said they were perfectly ordinary officials. It became rather stupid, but they still persist in doing it."

It did, but European-style diplomacy was preferable to America's black and white way of doing things. "You need a good ambassador," he added.

Asked about trade embargoes against the Soviet Union and its allies, Lord Home said: "I wouldn't have sanctions. I have never seen them work. But I think you have to be absolutely frank with the Russians. If they know that you know what they are up to, they will listen. But you cannot be gentlemanly."

He felt there had been a marginal improvement in Soviet foreign policy in recent months, but it was a great mistake to think that Mr Mikhail Gorbachev would alter policy.

A lot, he suggested, depended on the Geneva arms talks with the Americans. "I am not an expert on the military side. They are so complicated, these new weapons," he said, "but it should be possible to reduce numbers by a lot. There is an enormous overkill."

In global terms, Lord Home thought it was to the Russians' advantage to create "areas of weakness, confusion, and turmoil." Four million Afghans in Pakistan created a bad situation, he said. Iran-Iraq war, and no end of Syria's relations with Jordan. "And they will encourage the Vietnamese to go into Thailand," he added.

He suggested that the influence on Kremlin policy-making was "a very good man" and Mr Paul Nitze, the arms negotiator, "gets on with the Russians very well."

He felt that Britain did not count today as much as

## Kohl faces problems over visit to reunion of Silesia's wartime refugees

From Anna Tomforde in Bonn

Councillor Helmut Kohl, who has just had to weather an election reverse and criticism of his handling of the VE Day anniversary, was facing new trouble yesterday about his planned appearance next month at a reunion of refugees from the former German province of Silesia, now in Poland.

The Silesian Exiles' Organisation, representing some 300,000 former refugees who fled West after the war, chose to launch a reunion of refugees from the former German province of Silesia, now in Poland.

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They are generally hostile towards the Government's policy of reconciliation with the East and have become more forthright recently in challenging the postwar boundaries with Poland, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany.

Earlier this year, the Silesian Exiles' Organisation published an article depicting the "conquest and liberation" of lost territories in the East by the Bundeswehr, the West German armed force.

The article's author, in his 20s, was described by Dr Kohl as a crank, but it nonetheless served to fuel the flood of "revanchist charges" against Bonn from suspicious Eastern neighbours.

The latest commentary, headlined "What Weisacker did not say," also contained a personal attack on the President, aged 65, for his remark that too many Germans had turned a blind eye to the Jewish deportation and killings.

Weisacker, as the son of a state secretary in Hitler's foreign ministry, may have known more than the average citizen. Why then did he not offer resistance himself?

The President's office had no comment to make on the row yesterday. MPs of the CDU and the liberal Free Democratic Party condemned the article and joined opposition MPs in calling on the Chancellor to cancel his appearance at the rally.

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Earlier this year, the Silesian Exiles' Organisation published an article depicting the "conquest and liberation" of lost territories in the East by the Bundeswehr, the West German armed force.

The article's author, in his 20s, was described by Dr Kohl as a crank, but it nonetheless served to fuel the flood of "revanchist charges" against Bonn from suspicious Eastern neighbours.

The latest commentary, headlined "What Weisacker did not say," also contained a personal attack on the President, aged 65, for his remark that too many Germans had turned a blind eye to the Jewish deportation and killings.

Weisacker, as the son of a state secretary in Hitler's foreign ministry, may have known more than the average citizen. Why then did he not offer resistance himself?

The President's office had no comment to make on the row yesterday. MPs of the CDU and the liberal Free Democratic Party condemned the article and joined opposition MPs in calling on the Chancellor to cancel his appearance at the rally.

## Britain in farm talks hot seat

From Derek Brown in Brussels

Britain was thrust unwillingly into the hot seat in European Community farm price talks last night.

An astute political manoeuvre by Germany left the British farm minister, Mr Michael J. Fanning, almost isolated in defending price cuts originally demanded by the EEC Commission earlier this year.

For two months Germany has determinedly resisted the Commission's proposal to cut 3.6 per cent from prices paid to cereal farmers who last year produced some 15 million tonnes more than the community market consumed.

After six negotiating sessions over two months, the German Farm Minister, Mr Ignaz Kiechle, has persuaded a majority of countries to accept a much smaller penalty for grain farmers. Last night, German officials were asking of a cut of less than one per cent.

That, according to diplomats close to the ministerial talks, left Britain almost alone in supporting the original Commission price strategy. Long considered essential to bring the soaring cost of the Common Agricultural Policy under control.

German aides insisted that their national veto on cost-cutting remained on the bargaining table. They seemed satisfied that the negotiating tide had turned in their direction, and that Britain, rather than Germany, had taken over the role of villain in the long-running price saga.

At stake is not only the German Government's standing with the important rural vote. The Community itself is already short of funds, largely because of the £12 billion Common Agricultural Policy.

## Teachers' strike called off

Stockholm: Sweden's main public employees' union yesterday called off a 13-day teachers' strike, but said work stoppages by other civil servants would continue until wage demands were met.

Mr Lars Backlin of the TCO union, said the strike by 6,000 teachers was ending at midnight last night to relieve pressure on schoolchildren and parents. "We believe the teachers' strike has made its point," he said.

The striking teachers will not return to work until Monday because tomorrow and Friday are public holidays.

Some 23,000 teachers will still be affected by a lockout imposed last weekend, unless employers respond to the union's gesture and allow schools to reopen. Mr Backlin said his union had so far had no response from employers.

Swedish companies said they would face serious problems if the strike, which has reduced the country's foreign trade to a trickle, were not settled soon.

Some 70,000 public sector posts have been unmanned because of the strike and the retaliatory lockout. Air traffic has been halted and most customs offices at ports have been closed.

The Government rejected strikers' demands for an extra 3.1 per cent pay rise on top of a 5 per cent increase already agreed, saying it would jeopardise its anti-inflation strategy. Talks between the two sides broke down last weekend.

Industry's hopes that the customs strike might be declared a danger to society, thereby applying considerable moral pressure on workers to return to work, were dashed yesterday when an arbitration board failed to agree on how serious it was.—Reuters.



## Pilot of KAL jet 'misled control'

Tokyo: The pilot of the Korean Air Lines plane shot down by Soviet fighters in September 1983, misled Tokyo air controllers about his altitude during the last minutes before the fatal attack, according to new information released by the Japanese Government yesterday.

Mr. Yutaka Hata, of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, told a news conference that the information also showed that the pilot of the Boeing 747 had taken command and was not relying solely on an automatic pilot system during the last minutes.

All 269 people aboard the flight, bound for Seoul from New York via Anchorage, were killed. The new document was issued in the name of the Prime Minister, Yasuhiro Nakasone, and was delivered in reply to a formal query submitted by Mr. Hata last month.

However, a research group led by Mr. Hata and Mr. Hideyuki Soga, a Socialist Upper House member, which investigated the incident, did not offer reasons why the pilot would have given wrong information to air traffic controllers.

The document endorses the argument that Self Defence Force radar was probably plotting the flight before the time (of attack). Hata said, referring to at least three radar installations in the northern-most main island of Hokkaido mentioned in the document.

After straying into Soviet airspace over the Kamchatka Peninsula and Sakhalin Islands for about five hours, KAL Flight 007 was shot down by a missile fired by a Soviet fighter in the early hours of September 1, 1983.

Since the flight and voice recorders from the aircraft were never reported to have been found, the plane's deviation from its proper course and the last minutes have remained a mystery. The new document includes the Japanese Government's first official report on the changes during KAL 007's last 17 minutes, based on radar records. It contradicts the pilot's report to Tokyo air traffic controllers.

According to official Japanese announcements in 1983, KAL 007 was first spotted by radar at 3.12am (1812 GMT on August 31) and disappeared at 3.29am (1829 GMT) after the attack.

New radar records show that KAL 007 descended from 32,000ft to 29,000ft by 3.15 the exact minute when the pilot asked air controllers for permission to climb to 35,000ft from his reported altitude of 33,000ft.

After receiving clearance from controllers at 3.20, the pilot reported that the aircraft was leaving the 33,000ft level and extending manoeuvres to reach 35,000ft when he was actually at 30,000ft, according to radar.

At 3.23, the pilot reported that he had reached 35,000ft. Japanese radar showed him to be flying at 32,000ft at that moment.

Mr. Hata said the discrepancies in altitudes could not be accounted for by the radar's margin of error or errors in on-board altimeters. "The pilot was not telling the truth about his altitude and failed to report about the descent after 3.12," Mr. Hata said.

He said his research group would study data in the new document before issuing any conclusions. Mr. Hata said he was thinking of filing subsequent formal queries based on the current document. — AP.

## Death toll in rebel rampage through city rises to 146

## Ten Tamils killed in backlash to massacre

From Roland Edirisinghe in Colombo

Ten Tamils have been killed and 11 homes set on fire in an angry backlash against the massacre carried out by Tamil separatist guerrillas in the ancient Sinhalese capital of Anuradhapura. The death toll in Tuesday's raid rose yesterday to 146.

Police said yesterday that, as well as reprisals in the Anuradhapura area two other attacks were reported on Tamil property at Puttalam, on the west coast, and Tissamaharama, in the south.

Forty-eight people were killed yesterday when unidentified assailants attacked passengers on a ferry in northern Sri Lanka with guns and knives. About 30 people were injured and several were feared missing after the travellers were attacked on the ferry between Delft and Nainativu islands. — Reuters.

Reuters news agency reporting from the stricken city, said that swamping relatives crowded the city's mortuary yesterday to try to identify dozens of bodies piled up there. Distraught men and women hunted for relatives. People hung flags to mourn the dead.

Troops were patrolling the streets of Anuradhapura, still cut off from the rest of the island, after a 16-hour curfew was lifted yesterday morning. Late night the Government said it was reimposing the curfew to try to prevent a backlash against the few Tamils living there.

Several shops were burned and a Tamil Hindu temple was destroyed, apparently in retaliation for the guerrilla rampage. Residents said two Tamils were killed after the rebels, disguised as soldiers, shot their way through the sacred Buddhist city.

More than 100 people were also wounded in the first big

intrusion into a predominantly Sinhalese area by the guerrillas, who are fighting for a separate Tamil state.

Chennai city residents that police and the army did not respond quickly enough when told about the guerrilla assault were denied by security authorities.

Witnesses told Reuters people were walking to work and a crowd had gathered at a bus stop when the guerrillas drove up in a hijacked bus. Hettiaratchi Chitraratne, aged 31, said three men dressed in commando uniforms and carrying hand bombs got off the bus and surveyed the area.

A motorcycle then rode in and gave a thumbs-up signal and several guerrillas inside the bus fired machine gun rounds at the crowded bus stand, he said.

The guerrillas, all aged about 20, shouted "duruppiyo Sinhalese" (kill you Sinhalese) as they opened fire. Chitraratne said. The bus then drove slowly through the streets as the guerrillas fired at fleeing men, women and children.

The information Minister, Mr. Anura Kumara de Silva, said after a Cabinet meeting that 120 people had died in the attack at Anuradhapura and 24 at the Wilpattu wildlife sanctuary. The attacks also killed a bus driver and conductor when they hijacked the bus.

He was unaware, he said, of the attack being a reprisal for alleged excesses by troops in the northern, Tamil-dominated Jaffna district. Tamil allegations that troops killed 70 people near Jaffna last week after the killing of a major and a soldier by guerrillas in the area.

Mr. De Silva said the "whole operation" had taken only about 20 minutes. The Government believes the aim was to provoke attacks against Tamil similar to the riots of July, 1983 and spread confusion and lawlessness.

An emergency meeting of Parliament was planned to discuss the situation.

## India prepares for Sikh 'terror week'

New Delhi: Indian intelligence expects new attacks in a "week of terror" by Sikh terrorists next month, on the anniversary of the assassination of the Punjab's Golden Temple, the Sikhs' holiest shrine.

The Hindustan Times, New Delhi's biggest daily, quoted intelligence reports and officials as saying, "a week of terror is expected to be unleashed in the country" on June 3, the anniversary of the temple raid, in which at least 1,000 Sikhs and 200 soldiers were killed.

The report came after weeks-end bombings that killed 85 people and a failed Sikh plot to kill the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, during a forthcoming visit to the US.

Police also say they expect Sikh extremists seeking an independent state to step up their attacks. More than 1,000 people being held are being

questioned and security has been tightened throughout the country.

Special precautions are being taken to protect the assassination of the Punjab's Golden Temple, the Sikhs' holiest shrine.

The Hindustan Times, which has close links with the Government, said passports of foreigners, including those of Indian origin, who had arrived in India over the past few weeks would be checked.

The Government plans to bring sweeping anti-terrorist legislation through Parliament in the next few days to combat the rising violence.

The FBI says the terrorists have also planned to bring down the Indian Government by blowing up nuclear plants, bridges, hotels and offices. — AP.



Before the storm: Anti-Israeli protesters demonstrate in front of the synagogue yesterday before police waded in with electrified batons

## Cairo police beat protesters at synagogue

From Kathryn Davies in Cairo

EGYPTIAN riot police wielding electrified batons charged anti-Israeli demonstrators in central Cairo yesterday, causing hundreds of bystanders to flee in panic. Scores of arrests were made and several people were injured.

The demonstration coincided with the first full day of talks between senior Israeli and Egyptian officials in the talks at the Menzies House Hotel, under the shadow of the Giza pyramids. The talks, held in what an Israeli diplomat called a "feeling of good expectations", are designed to improve the atmosphere between the two countries.

which signed a peace treaty in 1979 but have had strained relations since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

Israeli officials said that they were offering Egypt a "package" of proposals, the most important of which is an agreement to refer the issue of Tabat to arbitration. Tabat, the tiny strip of beach in eastern Sinai which Israel retained after the peace treaty, has soured bilateral ties. Egypt insists that it resumes sovereignty over the resort as a question of national honour.

In return, the Israelis are demanding a return to Tel Aviv of the Egyptian ambassador and the normalisation of trade and tourist

links. Although thousands of Israeli tourists come to Egypt every year, there is little traffic in the opposite direction.

Two of Egypt's opposition newspapers had claimed that the Israelis were planning to celebrate the anniversary of the creation of the Jewish State with a religious service in the capital's Adly Street synagogue, used by Cairo's 200 or 300 remaining Jews on the Sabbath. But the Israeli embassy called this "a lie", saying Israel kept the Hebrew, not the Gregorian, calendar, and that the anniversary was commemorated on April 25.

About 300 Egyptians and Palestinians, some carrying pictures of the late President Nasser, and many

waving the PLO flag, chanted anti-Israeli slogans for almost an hour while hundreds of riot police and internal security men cordoned off the synagogue and lined up with riot shields and cattle prods — batons capable of giving electrical shocks.

Then without warning, riot police ran among demonstrators and spectators, hitting out with their batons and dragging people away to waiting vans. Screaming women and children sought shelter in neighbouring buildings and several were injured in the ensuing stampede.

The police eventually cleared the area and cordoned off all the neighbourhood streets.

## UN official seized by uniformed gunmen in Beirut

From David Hirst in Beirut

THE DEPUTY director of the UN relief and works Agency, an Irishman, was kidnapped here yesterday. No one has claimed responsibility for this latest abduction of remaining foreigners in the city, the first for more than six weeks.

Uniformed gunmen in two cars, intercepted Mr. Alden Walsh, aged 46, in the busy sea-front quarter of Raouche. He was going to work in his UN-marked station wagon. According to an UNWA representative, his chauffeur tried to argue, saying that Walsh was Irish and not involved in politics.

"This didn't cut any ice and, instead, one of the gunmen shattered the window of the car and put a pistol to the driver's head. Walsh didn't argue and went with the kidnappers peacefully."

The gunmen forced Mr. Walsh into the back of one of their cars, leaving the chauffeur and the station wagon, and drove off to an unknown destination.

Mr. Walsh is the second embassy official in Beirut, which looks after Palestinian refugees, to be kidnapped. Mr. Alec Collett, a British journalist on contract to the agency, was seized in March. He is apparently alive and in reasonably good health.

According to videotape of him recently received by his wife. One of several obscure groups involved in kidnappings, the Revolutionary Organisation of Muslim Socialist, claims to be holding him.

About 10 foreigners, seized since the beginning of last year, are being held somewhere in the country. They include five Americans, two French diplomats and a Saudi envoy. A total of 17 kidnapped men, one Briton

and one American have escaped. Two Britons and two Frenchmen have been released, and a Dutch priest has been murdered.

It was assumed initially that, insofar as the kidnappings are politically motivated, Americans are prime targets, with the British and French next in line. The nationals of other Western countries, having less of an "imperialist taint", were believed to be less exposed.

Moderate Christian leaders, meanwhile, have formed a coalition to try to work out a political settlement with Muslim leaders and end fighting which has claimed some 60 lives in Beirut during the past few weeks.

A former minister, Mr. Michel al-Murr said yesterday that the Christian Coalition for a United Lebanon would seek a dialogue with Muslim political factions which have rejected peace talks with the Christian Lebanese Forces Militia.

He said that no militia members would be accepted into the coalition formed on Tuesday, because there were certain factions which did not want to negotiate with them.

## Alarm in Jerusalem as inflation reaches 320 pc

From Ian Black in Jerusalem

The need for urgent measures to bolster the faltering Israeli economy was underlined yesterday with the publication of figures showing that the cost of living rose by more than 19 per cent last month.

The inner cabinet is due to meet in Jerusalem today to discuss the crisis, and ministers are expected to concentrate on how to deal with inflation, now running at 320 per cent a year.

Under the automatic index-linking system, salaried employees will receive a 15.5 per cent wage increase next month to compensate for the April

price rises, but a spokesman for the industrialist association said it would be difficult to find the extra money.

Mr. Yisrael Kessar, secretary-general of the Histadrut, Israel's giant trade union federation, said last night that the cost of living figures meant that any tampering with existing wage agreements or other living increments was out of the question.

The April figures, which were greeted with horror in the Finance Ministry, appeared likely to undermine the system of package deals with which the government has been trying to treat the country's ailing economy.

According to press reports

yesterday, the Government is planning to raise food and petrol prices, freeze state contracts, institute a five-day working week in the public sector, and ban imports of luxury goods.

Officials are said to be divided about whether to devalue the shekel, but the first priority of the Finance Minister, Mr. Yitzhak Moda'i, is actually to implement the \$1.8 billion budget cut approved by the cabinet.

The Central Bureau of Statistics said that the biggest increases last month were in the cost of clothing and footwear, which went up by 45 per cent. The price of flats rose by 25 per cent.

## US wants to check Israel's 'unlicensed' nuclear timers

From John Goshko in Washington

The United States has asked to inspect Israel's top secret nuclear installations to verify that American-made timing devices, apparently obtained by surreptitious means, were not used in making atomic weapons or re-exported to other countries.

US diplomatic sources say, "Israel is unwilling to allow inspection, the United States wants Israeli officials to suggest alternative means of accounting for the estimated 500 to 600 devices."

Washington has also called on Israel to return all unused devices to the US because they were never licensed for export, case review and licensed by the State Department.

Earlier this week, it became known that a federal grand jury in Los Angeles is investigating whether the devices were smuggled out of the country in violation of US law. Under the Atomic Energy Act, violators could be liable

to a maximum 20-year prison term if it is proved that the devices were exported for the national security advantage of a foreign country.

It has been assumed for years that Israel has the capability to make atomic weapons. However, US officials have said that Israeli secrecy has prevented the United States from learning whether Israel possesses such weapons.

Israel's refusal to submit to international controls and inspection also means that, despite its close ties to the United States, it is barred by US nuclear proliferation rules from obtaining devices like kryptonites.

On Sunday, the Israeli Defence Ministry admitted that it had obtained a number of kryptonites between 1979 and 1983 and still had a stockpile. The ministry said the devices were used only in conventional research and development and in testing equipment. None had been sent to other countries. — Washington Post.

## Nigerians move exiles

Lagos: Nigeria has now sent home by ship thousands of illegal foreign residents and strongly denied that its security forces shot and killed people trying to force their way through the border with Benin.

At Lagos docks this morning, the ports police commissioner, Abdullahi said that more than 13,000 people had been shipped out since the weekend and 5,000 were expected to leave later in the day for Ghana.

About 300,000 of the 700,000 foreigners affected by the government's April order that they regularise their stay or leave are Ghanaians.

Aliens said police killed four of their number as they tried to break through a sealed border post on Monday.

Lagos radio quoted the Information Minister, Mr. Samson Omeruah, as saying that the reports were a "complete fabrication and there had been no incident of that kind at the border post of Seme".

He said foreign radio stations that carried the reports were waging a "campaign of calumny" against Nigeria.

## First black S. African 'peace officers' ready for duty

From Patrick Laurence in Johannesburg

The first contingent of nearly 120 of the controversial force of black "peace officers" graduated at a passing-out parade in Soweto yesterday.

They were watched by councillors from the township of Soweto, where they will assume duty as an auxiliary police force at a time of continuing unrest in townships throughout South Africa.

More than 80 of the peace officers will augment the forces of "law and order" in the three townships which comprise greater Soweto, Soweto proper, and the adjacent townships of Diepsmeadow and Dobsonville.

The creation of the peace officers who have been compared to the "white" police of the white-ruled apartheid era, is the subject of a book by Mr. Gillis van der Walt, director-general to the Department of Cooperation and Development, said at the passing-out parade.

The peace officers will be directly under the authority of the controversial black town council, whose councillors have been a favourite target for petrol bombers and angry black mobs.

The peace officers will wear distinctive uniforms, carry firearms while on duty, and have powers of arrest apart from

responsibility for helping to maintain law and order, they will serve as messengers in the traditional or tribal courts in some townships.

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## Ethiopians trek home

Nairobi: Tens of thousands of Ethiopians who fled to Sudan to escape famine are now trekking home to their villages, often a three-week walk away.

UN officials here said that the refugees were apparently heading home in the hope of planting crops. Some rain has fallen over much of Ethiopia and long rains are due to start in July.

Yet, hundreds of refugees are still arriving. They are few compared to the peak of 3,000 who streamed across every day at the height of the exodus last year. But it is not clear why thousands of Ethiopians should be going home while hundreds are still coming in. — Reuters.

## Rally condemns new Sudanese leaders

From Ed Hooper in Khartoum

A POLITICAL rally held by the Sudanese National Alliance yesterday expressed discontent with Sudan's new rulers — the Transitional Military Council of General Abdurrahman Swaraddah.

There was much applause from the crowd of nearly 1,000 in the grounds of the University of Khartoum Staff Club, as a succession of speakers called for more strikes and civil disobedience "to safeguard our revolution."

Representatives of the doctors, lawyers, engineers, accountants and university

professors — the five large unions which organised last month's pro-coup demonstrations — presented a memorandum to the rally.

The speakers called for a return to the 1964 independence constitution, together with guarantees that legislative power would pass immediately to the civilian cabinet.

The speakers also called for a wholesale abrogation of the laws passed during Numeiri's era (including Shari's law), a cessation of the state of emergency and martial law, and the restoration of civilian governors to

Sudan's regions. Dissatisfaction with the Military Council's performance has been brewing for some time, particularly over the release of several members of the old state security organisation, and the delay in bringing leading Numeiri figures to trial.

The present situation stems from a demonstration last Saturday by the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood Party, the Islamic National Front, in support of Shari's law.

The following day, the national capital commission, Mr. Kamal Abbassi, formally renewed

the ban on marches and demonstrations which has been in force since the declaration of martial law on the day of the coup. In practice, this had not been enforced by the authorities.

Now the mood of the trade unions is angry. The information secretary of the alliance, Mr. Sulaiman Baldo, explained: "Some leading union figures feel that the popular risings of March and April have been deviated from their course, and that what we have now is effectively another military coup. Until some corrections are made, we have to say the revolution has been aborted."

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£10,000	£244.40	£169.90	£148.50	£140.90	
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5 Yrs	10 Yrs	15 Yrs	20 Yrs		
£3,000	£83.19	£56.40	£57.63	£56.19	
£10,000	£277.30	£208.00	£192.09	£187.30	
£25,000	£693.25	£520.00	£480.23	£468.25	

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Pictures by Frank Martin

Left: White cotton and satin stripe Nehru riding jacket (other fabrics and prints available) sml, £220 from Crolla, 35 Dover Street, London W1; Joseph Pour La Mission, Sloane Street, W1. Pink embroidered trousers (also white, black, blue, grey) sml, £25 by John Crancher from Acrobat, 21 Kings Road, SW7; L'vivchik, Kensington Market, Kensington High Street, W8; all branches of Whistles; all branches of Joseph. Gift and glass brooch, £30 from a selection at Antiquarius, Kings Road, SW3. Grey satin hat, £40 by Accessible Too, to order from 4 Cromwell Meads, SW7. Blue glasses, £10 from Hyper Hyper, Kensington High Street, W8.

Above left: Pink and green two tone cotton wrap skirt, 8-14, £32; pink and yellow cotton short sleep shirt, 8-14, £49 — all by Jean-Paul Gaultier at all branches of Midas, Floral chintz hat, £104 to order from Stephen Jones, 24 Lexington Street, W1. White metal, brass, glass and coconut necklace, £135; stained bone necklace (worn round ankle), £58 both from a selection at Liberty, Regent Street, W1.

Above centre: Pink, gold and silver lace jacket (also mauve, silver, white, black, gold, pink) sml, £150; matching waistcoat, sml, £50; white satin and organza shirt

(also black, pink, blue, grey) sml, £50 — all by John Crancher from Acrobat, 21 Kings Road, SW7; L'anarchie, Kensington Market, Kensington High Street, W8; all branches of Whistles; all branches of Joseph. White embroidered acetate trousers (also pink, mauve) 10-14, £22.25 by Jane Stott for Way In at Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1. Pink and white half moon pearl brooches, £22 each from Harrods; Liberty, Regent Street, W1. Embroidered black and gold hat, £35 by Chime from Unit 17, Hyper Hyper, 26-40 Kensington High Street, W8.

Above right: White and gold embroidered cotton coat, made to order, £500; white cotton shirt, sml, £25 both by Chime, Unit 17, Hyper Hyper, 26-40 Kensington High Street, W8. Brown, black, white, red printed silk trousers with overskirt (assorted prints and colourways) 10-14, £72; matching scarf wrapped around head, £25 both by English Eccentric from Ice, 14a St Christopher's Place, W1; Joseph, 6 Sloane Street, SW1; Browns, 23-27 South Molton Street, W1; Cue, 6 Heathcote Street, Nottingham; Cruise, 39 Renfield Street, Glasgow. Black and bronze hat, £40, by Accessible Too, to order from 4 Cromwell Meads, SW7. Beige tapestry pumps 3-11, £35 from Ad Hoc, 396 Kings Road, SW10.

Hair by Michael Tammara for Daniel Gabor, 59 George Street, W1 (01-486 8601).

## Silk, sensation and sensuality

For centuries the British have been fascinated by the erotic lure of oriental clothes. In today's revival, reports Brenda Polan, the eroticism continues — but with an air of self-mockery

IT IS NOT entirely incorrect to attribute fashion's latest love affair with the East to the power of television and the movies. It is merely incomplete. The trigger for the current wave of orientalism was indeed all that Indian splendour shot through heat-and-dust-distorted light. Gandhi, The Jewel in the Crown, the Far Pavilions, Heat and Dust. But the power of that kind of visual influence depends not only on the quality and number of productions (Or Zivago changed the direction of fashion single-handedly) but also on the power of the subject's associations and on the receptiveness of the influenced.

Significantly, while headlines all over the world announce unflinchingly that fashion is all the Raj, they are actually referring to British fashion and to the designers of other nationalities who follow very closely London's lead — like Jean-Paul Gaultier of France. Nor is the explanation simply that India and the events portrayed in all that celluloid — is more or less exclusively part of our past and not the past of Italy, France or America. That would reduce it all to simple nostalgia for better, more vainglorious times.

It is much more positive than that. Contrary to general belief, the British have always been the most imaginative, experimental and playful of peoples in matters of dress. Foreigners have sometimes sneered that it is because, as a nation, we lack a style of our own that we are so receptive to styles of other nations, but our passion for the costumes of other places and, just as much, for the costumes of our own past, is a more or less exclusive part of our past and not the past of Italy, France or America. That would reduce it all to simple nostalgia for better, more vainglorious times.

From the Crusaders onwards, travellers from this island brought back with them not just all manner of gorgeous booty including luxurious fabrics in hitherto undreamed of colours and patterns cut into garments of exotic and usually comfortable shapes but new ideas as well. In all its long history of exploration, trade, conquest and exploitation, the disunited and United Kingdom may have despised the religions, politics and social mores of the peoples it came into contact with, but it rarely failed to absorb some part of their aesthetics — first and foremost in terms of dress.

A close study of such adoptions (like the one made by the exceptionally acute costume historian, Barbara Baines, in her book, Fashion Revivals, Batsford 1981) reveals a

common thread in the rationale of the adopters. From Sir Philip Sidney's extra-grand Greek prince in Arcadia with his "Persian tunic all set down with rows of so rich rubies" through Charles II and his fashion-defying Persian vest, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu in her furred Turkish "curdies" and catan and Wilfrid Scawen Blunt's "white draperies of Arabia" to Paul Fieret's harem pyjamas, they were moved by the sensuousness and the sensuality of the clothes and the cloth they were cut from.

None of them actually put it that way. Wilfrid Blunt in Arabist puts it thus: "The mere act of passing from one's graceless London clothes into the white draperies of Arabia is a new birth. One's soul rises in dignity with the change..." In Anastasius, Thomas Hope (portrayed in splendid Turkish dress by Sir William Beechey in 1798) described his own feelings on shedding Western for Eastern dress in this way; "My chest seemed to dilate, my breathing to acquire a freedom before unknown, and my limbs and gait have gained a fresh vigour and buoyancy."

Power, dignity, vitality, virility. These qualities are, of course, partly a matter of association. Not only does cloth of gold studded with gems and used in huge, flowing layered quantity imply wealth and therefore power and consequently dignity, but the very texture of the cloth seen by explorers and traders worn by men of great and frequently ruthless power. No European monarch, restrained by church, peers and, latterly, democracy, had the time and desire to wear the voluminous silks of the rajah, you walk a little taller. And you are terribly sexy. Power, after all, is the great aphrodisiac.

So, by the sympathetic magic which made our caveman ancestors don the fur of the sabre-tooth and which our collective subconscious can never quite be persuaded is nonsense, if you wear the voluminous silks of the rajah, you walk a little taller. And you are terribly sexy. Power, after all, is the great aphrodisiac.

For it was not the coarse and ruffled garb of the common fellow who in which Blunt shrugged at the slightest opportunity. It was the stately robes of the sheikh, a man whose style of life was as luxurious as it was remote from the vulgar. Similarly the Western conception of the oriental woman was not of the peasant eking a meagre living from the soil or servitude but of the odalisque in the harem.

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu was permitted to visit there and, as ever thrilled by the appearance of Turkish women, would have recom-

mended the use of khol to her compatriots had she not considered it too detectable in daylight and therefore not quite proper. The lure of the East for many Westerners, particularly those from the protestant north of Europe, was that so many things they had been raised to think not at all proper were here, in the exotic, sun-ripened orient, not only sanctioned but fairly compulsory.

The majority of explorers to the mysterious East were, however, men and they were certainly not given access to the seraglio. So behind its walls and beyond its eunuchs (and what a frisson of distaste and curiosity the thought of them aroused) was the greatest mystery of all — one redolent of secrecy, sin and sensuality. Few ideas have so over-excited Western man as that of the harem houri. The mass imagination created in her everyman's ideal female: modest yet sensual, wholly a possession, not to be shared, utterly adoring, unimaginably beautiful.

Like any other fantasy, it hardly approached the truth. They may have been veiled and mainly im-mured but we know now that the women of the harem were as political, forceful and to a philo-sophy of free love is no accident: the philosophy may have come first but the perceived eroticism of the or-ient helped to dictate dress.

In today's oriental revival the eroticism remains but it is em-ployed with an air of self-mockery. The peasant garb has been rejected in favour of a return to the opulent splendour of the ruling class, but it is worn slightly overdone, just a little parodied. For its wearer it says: I feel great in sensuous silks and satins; I love piling on the pearls and the glitter; it all makes me walk with a bit of a swagger. But I know it's a game. I know the asso-ciations are spurious and, anyway, if I examined them too closely, I would hate them. Let's just have fun.

That these Western flower chil-dren, rejectors of the Western way of life, also subscribed to a philo-sophy of free love is no accident: the philosophy may have come first but the perceived eroticism of the or-ient helped to dictate dress.

In today's oriental revival the eroticism remains but it is em-ployed with an air of self-mockery. The peasant garb has been rejected in favour of a return to the opulent splendour of the ruling class, but it is worn slightly overdone, just a little parodied. For its wearer it says: I feel great in sensuous silks and satins; I love piling on the pearls and the glitter; it all makes me walk with a bit of a swagger. But I know it's a game. I know the asso-ciations are spurious and, anyway, if I examined them too closely, I would hate them. Let's just have fun.

new career at the age of forty? Some of us work hard to find other outlets. I, for instance, received an Open University Degree this year, I write, I translate, I learn lan-guages, not mentioning look-ing after my family, my two children. Friends appreciate my efforts and say I am a good trooper. However, all these activities are under-taken by me with the thought that they can all be inter-rupted or dropped the very moment I get the acting call. With that blockage in my mind how can I responsibly contemplate an other career even if it was possible?

The truth is that alone all these meaningful and useful activities do not bring me

## Style file



Sketches by Sharon Long

## Treasure trove

MANGUETTE is a delightful little jewellery shop tucked into a corner of quaint Kensington Park Walk, London W8. It's a treasure trove of exotic jewellery made in beautiful and versatile semi-precious natural stones — coral, turquoise, amber and Lapis Lazuli. The choice of designs ranges from simple

bangles and earrings in plain silver or coral, to the intricate work of the Farisian designer, Aziz Kahlil, in rich amber and old Japanese coral. Above from left to right: old African amber, rock crystal, silver and ebony necklace, £125; old African amber, brass and bone necklace, £250; silver hoop earrings with serpent engraving, £29.95; jasper and silver earrings, £35; onyx and coral earrings, £46, all from Manguette.

... And Banni, 12 William Street, SW1 in comparison, looks like a boursgeois French saloon selling the best in bags at a price to match, and other chic accessories. Left: pale pink, laminated, talc muskashin shopper, £45; yellow leather and glass gem clutch, £145 by Fibra; wood and rope belt £47.50 by Mali Panin, all from Banni.

GILLIAN ROWE

## Awkward stage

I write, I translate, I learn languages, not to mention looking after my family. But all can be dropped the moment I get the acting call. Mia Nadasi puts the case for an Acting Anonymous

I AM SERIOUSLY thinking of setting up a new organisation: Acting Anonymous. I know that I am not alone in suffering from this serious affliction called the acting bug which bites at an early age and can have fatal consequences. There are organisations to fight alcoholism and gambling but as far as I know none has been set up to conquer the desire to remain and be employed in the act-ing profession. If all this sounds like flippant witi-cism, I have to declare it now that I am deadly serious. I am an actress, though I often ask myself what length of unemployment would dis-qualify me from calling myself a professional. Let's

put it this way, I have been a member of the actor's union for 20 years. Now in my fortieth year the dilemma has reached crisis level. It is one thing to see the apparition of 50 years plus, Joan Collins in the papers, saying that life begins at 50, while you at home watch your face just ever so slowly disintegrating and your body losing its suppleness. It is true, age is immaterial and you are as old or as young as you feel. Especially in the acting profession success has no age limit and it is part of the unbreakable pull that you still might make it no matter how old you are. Why the mid-life crisis then? Because somewhere deep

down you know that if you haven't made it by now, it is never going to happen.

While young, the out of work periods have a totally different atmosphere. Yes, it was miserable to wait for the phone to ring but there was always the hope; something must be round the corner, it is just a question of waiting patiently. But when you reach middle age, that rotten sounding 40, it don't seem what Ms Collins and the others say; it is the hope that subsides. I think one of the definitions of middle age must be the loss of hope.

The crux is that for those of us who have been fortunate or unfortunate enough to

to keep us ticking over, the odd West End or TV lead, the odd rave review, there was to give up acting completely. Maybe if the passed years had not offered any work at all and one was forced to find other alternatives, life now would be easier. But if you are not a total failure, if you can have your "fix" from time to time, because we are certain kind of drug-addicts, you cannot quit. Now, when there is a recession in the arts, when there is generally less work around, especially when you are a certain age and female to cap it all, the opportunity for the occasional "fix" is lessened or dried up completely.

How can you still lead a meaningful life? When you think about it, it is ridiculous. What an insignificant part of life is acting! What benefits does it bring to the human race on the whole? The answer must be, unless you are one of the few greatest, very little. Therefore it is totally senseless that once I have a job I am a changed person. Suddenly the law-line doesn't seem to be sagging anymore, the eyes sparkle again and I feel I gained social status.

In this country the reputa-tion of being an actor is not exactly stunning. Unless you are a well-known face from television, you are a lay-about, you are the 80 per cent

of your union who is out of work at any one time.

When I do give away that I am an actress at a party I can see the searching look on people's faces. Have I seen her in anything? When you meet an accountant or a lawyer you have no idea whether they are brilliant or dismal at their jobs. But as an actor if you are not instantly recog-nised, the qualitative-judg-ment is immediate, he or she can't be any good. So what is the point to put up with all these adversities in exchange for so little?

I will not go into the won-ders and magic thrills of show business, it is really a tired old hat. I rather ask, what are the alternatives? A

new career at the age of forty? Some of us work hard to find other outlets. I, for instance, received an Open University Degree this year, I write, I translate, I learn lan-guages, not mentioning look-ing after my family, my two children. Friends appreciate my efforts and say I am a good trooper. However, all these activities are under-taken by me with the thought that they can all be inter-rupted or dropped the very moment I get the acting call. With that blockage in my mind how can I responsibly contemplate an other career even if it was possible?

The truth is that alone all these meaningful and useful activities do not bring me

happiness. I clearly must be sick. So maybe there is a need for an organisation on the lines of Acting Anonymous. But this is exactly what I cannot bear to be, so utterly anonymous. . . . Any suggestions?

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Nancy Banks-Smith on the stammerer's story

## Tongue and cheek

THERE is no denying that the idea of a stammering fireman is funny. Though, of course, it will be denied on the grounds that it shouldn't be funny. It has the superb unsuitability of the wooden-legged tap dancer whose career on the stage was frustrated by the frequency with which he got stuck in the knot holes. He was, you might say, a square peg in a round hole.

John Harper was a fireman in London where, one fears, there is ample scope for his skills. His ambition to be a leading fireman was, however, irrevocably blocked by his stammer. A leading fireman is, I take it, the one who shouts "Forward, lads!" and, if he doesn't, they don't. John was also fond of a gin and tonic but, as he became log-jammed on the word tonic, he had to drink whisky.

Desperately, and against orthodox advice, he took a week's course with Andrew R. Bell of Kirkcaldy, who advertises in a small way, but with large assurance, "I will cure your stammering for life." Bell himself had stammered and cured himself. One of these minor prophets who seem to carry round their own pulp, he is at once mystical and forceful. His method is to teach the stammerer to speak, as Rick Campbell put it, like Roger The Talking Robot. Low, slow, measured, toneless speech.

Campbell with the characteristic courage of the serious stammerer went on television and became a huge success there, in a series of sketches in which he addressed the audience from the side of the head and shouting "Come on!" Bell's pupils were poignantly brave. Talking like speak-your-weight machines they went into bars and ordered pints of Guinness. They went into Kirkcaldy and in sepulchral tones bought bay leaves.

The attraction of Kirkcaldy, apart from its haggis, stovies and neaps, is that it is small enough to recognise Bell's little band of Daleks. Gradually they increased speed and added expression. By the end of the course Lucia, who could not say Lucia when she arrived, was making a graceful speech thanking Bell for his understanding and perception.

If the BBC were selling salmon, we would all get salmonella. This programme has been on the shelf for a year which, fortuitously, gave us a chance to monitor the progress. Two are stammering again, three have made some progress and three, John and Lucia among them, are fluent. He is now a leading fireman. And drinking gin and tonic.

I have a synchronome clock which, I understand, can run a hundred slaves. Or one hundred and one if you include me. John Berger's stimulating series About Time (C4) began with the fairly new notion of man as slave to the clock. Most striking—I am sorry about that—was 91-year-old Bora Russell, who refers to her former husband as "Russell Himself" and is working on a book about time, the contract for which was signed in March 1923.



ENGLAND MADE US: Polly James and James Simmons in *Today at the Pit* Picture by Douglas Jeffery

Michael Billington reports on Robert Holman's study of belief and disillusionment in the Thirties

## The faith they lost in England

ROBERT Holman's *Today*, which has arrived at The Pit from Stratford's Other Place, had an unusual genesis: it was written with 14 specific RSC actors in mind. That is both its strength and its weakness: character and acting are rooted in truth but, in providing an image of England between the wars and its influence on the present, Mr Holman seems to have fallen in love with his people that he allows scenes to run undramatically on.

What is the play about? Not easy to say since Mr Holman doesn't hit us over the head with message. My feeling is that it is about faith and vision: how those who had convictions in the Thirties either abandon them or perished and that what survived

into the post war world was a protective selfishness. Shifting between Yorkshire in 1936, Cambridge in the early Twenties and Spain in 1937, the play focuses on a romantic friendship between two opposites: Victor, an earnest working class musician with a joiner's father, and Edward, an upper class Etonian writer with a millionaire aunt. Both end up in Spain fighting Fascism. But whereas Victor, who sees art in terms of revenge and whose socialism is implacably self-centred, survived the war his privileged visionary chum doesn't. And to underline the point about loss of faith, Victor marries a nursing nun who readily abandons her calling.

It is a complex, demanding play in which everything is implied, little is stated. Behind

it lies the assumption that there is something in the puritanical Northern ethos (Mr Holman is himself a Yorkshireman) that is spiritually crucifying whereas in the more-eyed, upper crust Southern world dreams are allowed to prosper: Mr Holman's family contrasts the way everyone spies on Victor's amorous escapades with the downright, bright-eyed tolerance of Edward's philoclastic aunt. Looking at the post war world (the coda takes place in 1946) the battle, he suggests, has gone to the Victorians.

But although the play is shrewd and honest it is a little too cryptic for its own good and several scenes cry out for directorial editing. There is a hunting sequence on a Spanish station platform showing the diversity of types who ended up fighting in the

Civil War (from a Marxist Mancunian ventriloquist to a Catholic German male prostitute) but the dialogue spoils on long after the point has been made. Mr Holman is a very good writer: what he needs is a sense of shape and rhythm.

Bill Alexander as director could have done more to supply this. He also should ensure that William Dudley's upstage calendar, denoting crucial dates, is easily visible from all parts of the house. That aside, the production is flawlessly acted with Roger Allam making Victor down as a rock, James Simmons leading the upper class Edward as a lugubrious ventriloquist and Katharine Rogers as the emotionally aroused nun providing immaculate support.

Tom Sutcliffe reviews Welsh National Opera's new Rigoletto in Cardiff

## In tune with a devil

LUCIAN Pintilie, the Romanian director, has given Richard Armstrong a marvellously expressive staging to conduct. Besides his own Carmen or Berghaus's Giovanni it does not look remotely eccentric, but it says something new and profoundly important about the power and responsibility of the professional entertainer.

and about the risks and dangers of that calculated blasphemy which is art.

It may be only Rigoletto's work and not his creed to endorse vice; it may be only a game; but the fatal consequence is as ineluctable as in Don Giovanni, the work which Verdi's masterpiece most fascinatingly counterpoints and echoes both in its ominous brass writing and in the character of the wronged father Monterone.

Pintilie rightly observes that the moral crux of the opera is the character of the Duke, devil with all the best tunes. If the Duke is sympathetic, Rigoletto's misfortune is merely a private tragedy. Pintilie offsets the Duke's musical charms by making his "court" grotesque, stocked with drag queens and Draculas, and himself a pill-popping, oyster-swilling, self-indulgent, Presleyesque absurdity. As a result, the final scene becomes the effective

metaphysical statement that it should be, and the most sentimental means—Gilda going up a spiral staircase literally to heaven—project the conflicting notions of forgiveness, revenge and justice to sublime objective effect.

The production starts with a rather laid-back, camp orgy and ends (a touch like Cherazur's Lady) in a kind of coal hole that ideally reflects Rigoletto's mood. There is a wonderful visual statement at the end of Rigoletto's confrontation with Gilda, after she has been raped by the Duke, when the courtiers, who have been distressingly eavesdropping, pour streams of "coal" from the lunette windows at the top of Radu Borzescu's richly vulgar mother-of-pearl set. The same openings emit the storm-chorus hummings, very striking.

The pace quickens perceptibly in act two after the abduction, when the Duke

first laments and then revels in the prospect of Gilda to the background of a gym work-out. After the sick, almost feverish quality of act one, the clarity of Pintilie's production of this scene crucially affects the audience response. The work-out is very funny, and ties in nicely with the musical forms (an exercise bicycle fitting a fast quaver accompaniment figure).

The refraction of the Duke's nature is entertaining and severely taken, greeted with warm applause. This is where the punch-ball game Pintilie wanted should have come in: Armstrong objected to it but it should now be speedily restored and apologies made to Pintilie for the mistaken censorship of an important element in his careful structural scheme. It is vital to separate the Duke and his lifestyle from the emotional reality of Rigoletto and Gilda.

On the musical level, the show could be a bit more strongly cast. The chorus work with energy and commitment, and sound good. The supporting roles are well taken (Mark Holland promising as Marullo, Sean Res typically reticent as Sparafucile). Julian Konton as the pageboy of act two was a surprise and success. Dennis O'Neill with his beaming, cartoon-character eyes, both sings and acts a wonderfully decadent Duke, and Anne Dawson (though she tired a bit) was a touching and musically satisfying Gilda.

The problem with Donald Maxwell's Rigoletto, however energetic and convincing a performance, is that his vocal technique sounds constantly under pressure, the talent at risk if the singing is not sorted out. Armstrong has a fine, serious response to the score, conducting, and the orchestra respond marvellously.

Waldemar Januszczak pays tribute to Jean Dubuffet

## Paint in the raw

THE DEATH of Jean Dubuffet in Paris this week, so soon after Chagall, means that only Balzac remains of the grand old men of French art.

Dubuffet was 83. But his art belongs strictly to the post-war years, a period, deliberately ugly vision of humanity which must surely be seen as a disillusioned response to the human condition which the war revealed.

A typical Dubuffet painting from the 50s would feature a hollow-eyed head, quickly, almost childishly scratched out of a shape and pitted paint-surface, made not only of oil colours but also with putty, mortar, steel wool, sand, smeared over the canvas till it resembled the bomb-scarred wall of a house.

It was as if the thin veneer of civilisation had been stripped from Dubuffet's figures revealing humanity in its primordial state, thick and lumpy. Much of the inspiration for this "Art Brut" or raw art, came from the pictures by mental patients which Dubuffet avidly collected. In his search for art that showed the true state of the human unconscious he also looked closely at children's paintings.

He himself did not take up full-time painting until he was in his mid-forties, after a long and successful career as a wine-seller.

Robin Denslow on the new rock releases

## Cool in a crisis

WITH their third album *Faust*, The Imperfectionists (Virgin), China Crisis have almost achieved the Tears For Fears trick of transforming their reputation from that of a tinkling more substantial helped by no less a source than Walter Becker, of Steely Dan fame, who is credited both as producer and a member of the group, playing synthesiser and percussion, they are now edging towards cool and classy white soul.

Eddie Lundon and Gary Daly have always been among the most tuneful song-writers in the current wave of Liverpool bands, and they still have the ability to produce charmingly simple, confidently hummable melodies like their current hit, *Black Man Ray*, which is of course included. The other tracks included, *For the Highest*, *Higher*, *China*, *Stance*, mixes rather Chinese sounding, gently clanking and whistling synthesiser effects with an effortlessly catchy pop tune.

Elsewhere, though, Becker shows his hand. You Did Cut Me is a cool and drifting soulful piece, with saxophone and saxophone effects from the synthesiser, and a light and gentle funk backing to the high class-harmony vocals. Let the equally cool and breezy *Bigger*. The PUNCH I Am Feeling, or the gently swinging *The World Spins*, it shows China Crisis mixing a new sophistication into their engaging, if somewhat throwaway, pop approach.

Linda Thompson: One Clear Moment (Warners). She may have made her reputation with the six exceptional albums she recorded with her ex-husband Richard, but Linda Thompson has always been capable of far more than folk-influenced styles. Thirteen years ago, after all, she recorded a charming version of the Everly's *When Will I Be Loved*, duetting with Sandy Denny. Now, with her first solo album, she moves right away from British folk with an album that's more in the West Coast style, for the melodies were mostly written by an American, the singer, and keyboard player, Bob Cook. Betsy's husband, Hugh Murphy, was the producer, and the backing band includes Albert Lee, such a good guitarist that he plays with Eric Clapton.

The songs range from the lively country-rock of the opening *Can't Stop The Girl* to the slow, pretty and angry *Telling Me Lies*, one of several songs in which Linda's lyrics deal inevitably with her divorce. There are also a few songs not co-written with Betsy.

The Explorers: Explorers (Virgin). With Bryan Ferry's solo album imminent, two of his colleagues in Roxy Music, Andy Mackay and Phil Manzanera, sneak in first with their debut album from their new band. As expected, it features excellent brass and excellent guitar work, on some pleasant, lushly-produced and often epic-sounding tracks. But singer James Wright doesn't have the personality to make this amount to anything special, though he seems to be attempting Ferry's vocal mannerisms on *Venus De Milo*.

BIRMINGHAM Gerald Lamer

## CBSO/Rattle

IF WE had to forego the promised first performance of the latest Feeney Trust commission from Oliver Knussen having been unable to complete in time—Tippett's Concerto for double string orchestra was a welcome substitute.

Indeed, since the work is more often played by chamber orchestras these days, it was particularly exciting to hear it played by body of strings founded on as many as four basses on each side. It is true that details of the contrapuntal exchange tend

to get lost in these massed circumstances—which means more than a little thematic juggling because it has a taming effect on the cross-rhythms too—but there are ample compensations.

The voice of the solo violin in the slow movement stands out in the poetic relief and, of course, a massive surge of emotion in the last movement is all the more moving when it has such weight behind it. Simon Rattle is not a conductor who would be slow to capitalise on a situation like that.

Of the other two works in the programme, both had the good fortune to feature Nobuko Imai as solo violinist. Walton's Viola Concerto was particularly well favoured in this respect, since she understands the work. She does not, for example, struggle

for the prominence which the viola really cannot achieve in the first movement, since she knows that she can turn the material of the opening to her full advantage when it so effectively reappears at the end.

The violist has less to do, of course, in Strauss's *Don Quixote*. Fortunately for the hero, who would otherwise have been upstaged on this occasion, Sancha Pansa tends to fade out of Strauss's narrative. It is not that Robert Cohen was at all inadequate in the solo cello part. On the contrary, the more thoughtful he had to be the more convincing he was. It is just that sections of this work do call for extra large-scale characterisation.

Anyway, there was no absence of the large scale in the orchestral playing. Simon Rattle did take the introduction rather to slowly, which

was no help to the oboe in his phrasing of the Dulcinea melody, although it did help the conductor emphasise the eccentricity of the score—and that was a continuing delight throughout the performance.

## LIVERPOOL

Robin Thorner

## Are You Lonesome Tonight?

ALAN Bleasdale's new musical about Elvis Presley is not a stage biography. And it's certainly not a hagiography of his hero—and the hero of most of the post-war generation. It is rather a useful examination of how far and fast an idol can fall.

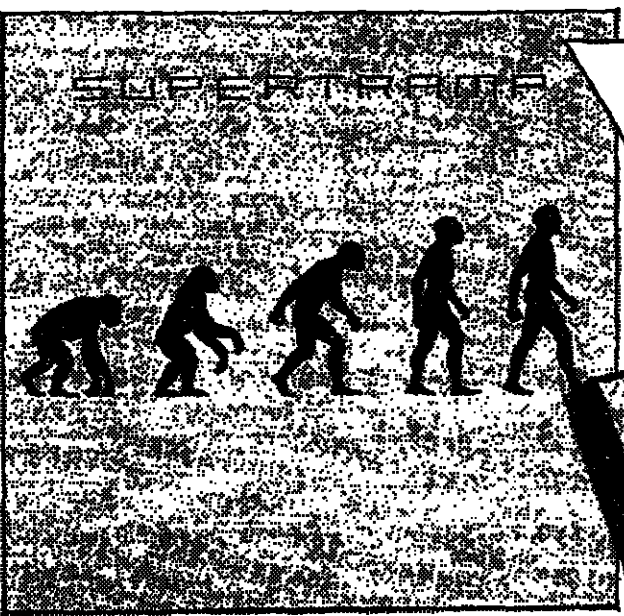
The show gives us the king of crooners in what should have been his prime at 42—gross in his Graceland mansion, replete and raddled

with pampering, sophisticatedly satiated in purple velvet track suit with nothing left to want. He's had it all, except perhaps normality, and spends his time re-running his own old movies, reliving his moments of triumph—and fending off the failures and disasters with "meditation". Martin Shaw is moodily magnificent in recreating this proving, caged bear with a sore heart in his pink upholstered prison. He could have coped better, the show seems to be saying, if only he'd had a wooden heart instead of a wooden head.

Simon Bowman gives a rubber-legged impersonation of the younger Presley, filled with aggro but lacking that syrupy suggestiveness that somehow made Presley seem quite romantically nice, really.

And Robin Lefevre's production at the Liverpool Playhouse, while throwing in an elaborate guitar-shaped Voytek setting, will never quite live up to the expectations this show has already aroused. It's a decent, competent, and sometimes moving musical. But it somehow misses the magic that ought to be there.

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## All the hope has turned to sand

Since its searing experience in Lebanon the United States has striven hard and long not to have a policy for the Middle East. It has rested on Camp David and the Reagan formula of September 1982. That phase is over and both Mr George Shultz and his Assistant Secretary, Mr Richard Murphy, have reappeared in the region. Mr Shultz was there only briefly, mainly to mend fences with the Israelis (which to most observers already looked perfectly sound). Mr Murphy was there for more wide-ranging talks about how a forum for talks about talks might possibly be discussed some time in the future. And that, of course, is the trouble. Just as lawyers tend to emerge from court with the litigants' savings, so the diplomats (including those of the PLO) are using up the Palestinians' precious time.

The diplomatic position is that the US will have no dealings with the PLO until it recognises the State of Israel, for which the signal would be its unambiguous acceptance of UN Resolution 242. The PLO will not do this because recognition is the strongest bargaining counter it possesses; it is too precious to waste on anything less than the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza. The variations on this theme have lately become more numerous. King Hussein and Mr Yasser Arafat have agreed in principle on a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation somewhat on the lines of Mr Reagan's plan. But this has provoked further internal dissent within the notoriously fissile Palestinian movement in exile. More to the point, it remains entirely hypothetical unless the Israelis can be brought to talk about it.

The State Department's solution has been that the US rather than Israel should conduct the exploratory talks. Since it cannot talk to the PLO the delegation on the other side would have to consist of a mixture of Jordanians and Palestinian notables without any formal PLO connection. When discussions with the notables were held in East Jerusalem, Mr Murphy found to his disgust that they were notable largely for their insistence that only the PLO could negotiate on the Palestinians' behalf. That is, of course, something they would have to say to cover all their flanks. But even if they have misgivings, they can say it with

a clear conscience, because opinion within the PLO crosses the entire spectrum: at one end a willingness to retrieve some land through a settlement now, at the other a strict adherence to the principle of Israel's destruction.

King Hussein, who will be in Washington later this month, has again stressed the urgency of moving beyond the procedural to the substantive. He has done that many times before and there is regrettably no sign that his warning this time will receive any greater attention. The procedural stage can be drawn out indefinitely and it suits Israel's diplomatic purpose that it should be. By Israel here is meant the majority of Israelis who, after all this time, can scarcely conceive of a State which does not include at least strategic and probably economic control of the West Bank. Whether this process can be cut short by direct US dealings with the PLO is a question which the PLO can, by its own policies, greatly help to influence. But in the end the US will either have to concede that it can do nothing for the Palestinians, and thus jeopardise its dealings with all the Arab states whose support it cultivates, or admit that its diplomacy must remain ineffectual without the full and formal participation of the PLO.

## One seam of commonsense

The worst that can be said of the new all-party Coalfield Communities Campaign is that it is a year too late and that it has no representatives from the National Union of Mineworkers. The campaign, funded by 54 local authorities in mining areas and blessed by such worthies as the Earl of Stockton, James Callaghan and the Lords (Joe) Gormley and (Derek) Ezra is arguing a case which a rational pit union would have been making these past 12 months and more and which a rational Coal Board and a rational Energy Secretary would have long since embraced. The CCC wants social costs explicitly included in individual pit closure calculations. It wants a properly integrated energy policy and it wants that policy to take some account of the impact of change and decay upon the communities involved. Yet, by implication, it recognises the need to shut genuinely uneconomic pits by demanding a substantial increase in efforts to generate new industries and new jobs in stricken areas. This is not so much wetsness as old fashioned realism.

Now who could argue with an agenda like that? Well, for starters, Mr Ian MacGregor and the Department of Energy.

It took months of arm twisting before the board agreed to set up a (totally inadequate) investment fund to generate new jobs. Surprising, really when you consider how effective such an initiative had been in steel where Mr MacGregor had previously practised his slim line skills. It took months of battering before the board indicated its deeply reluctant willingness to consider anything other than its own economic criteria (and pretty dubious ones at that) for pit closures. It is still far from clear whether the board seriously intends to honour either the letter or the spirit of the famous Nacods closure review scheme. Insofar as the NCB finds anything complimentary to say about the objectives of the CCC, the suspicion that it is no more than lip service must remain.

The NUM, is still, on paper at least, dedicated to fighting each and every pit closure. It is therefore deeply bored by rational discussion of the definition of "uneconomic" pits and the mechanics of weighing economic and social considerations. It regards plans for alternative job generation as part of a sell-out because such plans imply the need for some pit closures. The CCC is the sort of crusade which instinctively appeals to Joe Gormley. It will ring precious few bells with Mr Arthur Scargill. He still presents the disaster of the past year as some sort of victory (with victories like that, who needs defeats?) and seems hell bent on alienating great chunks of his own membership as he earlier alienated great chunks of a public which might normally have supported his cause. The attempt to impose centralist rule changes on a divided federal union causes "radical" Wales to make common cause with "moderate" Nottinghamshire which has voted overwhelmingly to quit the federation if the changes go through. Attempting to purge Mr Roy Lynk rather than come to terms with him, adds fuel to the fire. It is high time the union's bosses reached out both to its own suspicious membership and to its natural supporters in the organisations like the CCC. There is just no percentage in going it alone.

## Craxi casts a long shadow

The Craxi effect rolls on in Italy, way beyond the normal term afforded by that country's political law of averages. The results of this week's local elections show a new appetite for stability among Italian voters and amount to a pretty solid endorsement of the coalition of five parties in

the central government in Rome. They are a clear setback for the Communists but leave the neo-Fascists holding their own at about 6.5 per cent.

The average lifespan of a postwar Italian government is just 10 months. Mr Craxi, although his Socialist Party has very much in third place nationally, has held his coalition together and functioning smoothly for 21 months. With mounting confidence he and his partners have sailed through the usual storms arising from corruption, organised crime and terrorism to become an unaccustomed fixture on the political scene — so much so that these local elections were described in advance as a mid-term test. After the event, the general belief that Mr Craxi will bring off the rare feat of surviving an entire legislative period can only be strengthened.

Mr Craxi made no secret of his overweening ambition to become prime minister, which he pursued with impatience. Now, nearly two years later, his impetuosity can be seen to have been based on the fact that he did not have all that much to be modest about. This week his party maintained its steady growth by improving on its performances in the last local elections in 1980, the general election in 1983 and last year's European poll to pass the 13 per cent mark. The Christian Democrats re-established themselves as the largest party in the country after being pushed into second place for the first time in the European election by the Communists. The latter can now be seen to have done so well last year because of the personality of their late leader, Mr Berlinguer, and also because of his sudden death at the height of the European campaign which produced an added sympathy vote. The Christian Democrats have recovered enough to assert themselves more strongly in the Craxi coalition (they may now lay claim to the presidency in June when that remarkable Socialist, Mr Pertini, retires), but they are still nearly two points short of their score in the 1980 local elections. Secure in the knowledge that his coalition now commands nearly 60 per cent support and that his party has begun to nibble at the Communist vote, Craxi is well placed to become one of Italy's most formidable postwar leaders.

## The chain of demand

The latest attempt to reduce the Government's borrowing requirement is now doing good business at Kings Cross station

in London: British Rail's first privatised lorry, which made the journey (on time) from public to private sector on Monday. Since then, according to Mr David Evans, chairman of Brangreen Holdings — who did the deal with BR — the response of the public has exceeded all expectations. Normally about 2,300 people a day use the facilities. He had expected about 1,500 when charges were introduced. Instead, he claims, 3,400 passed water on Monday and 5,000 on Tuesday for Mrs Thatcher's belief in the superiority of the private enterprise cistern and a re-write job for all those economic textbooks claiming that demand falls when prices rise.

Well, not quite. While not disputing Mr Evans' figures, this column's first privatised wee yesterday (well 10p, actually) was preceded by a man who made his excuses before being excused to take his custom elsewhere. And there's the rub. Brangreen's free enterprise bonanza is really a closest monopoly. There is no other place to take your custom. It is the only loo on the station except for some unauthorised incinerators in seeder parts of the terminus. But, then St Pancras is only 50 yards down the road.

So this is really a "British Gas" style privatisation in which a monopoly changes hands with no effect whatever on competition: which creates a fresh puzzle. The existence of a monopoly helps to explain why custom hasn't dropped, but doesn't explain why it has doubled. Mr Evans says (unlike the man in front of us in the queue) that people are prepared to pay for something clean and professional and that if anything is free it is not much good. We would like to hear more from the 2,700 people who did not go into the loo under public ownership (how far were they travelling, for instance?) but who have found liberation under private enterprise before forming a final judgement.

It would, of course need a free public sector loo adjacent to a 10p private sector one (a mixed economy solution) to test fully whether nationalisation at Kings Cross had really met its Waterloo. But meanwhile, as the experiment is hailed as a triumph of competition and market forces, one can only ponder over the national scandal that would have broken out if British Rail had unilaterally raised the price of the only facility at Kings Cross from nothing to 10p. These things, these days, as Mrs Thatcher (if not Sir Gordon Borrie) would say, are best done by the private sector.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A council kiss of death for the SDP

Sir,—The "enmity" (Guardian May 14) displayed by Labour county council groups towards their SDP counterparts and their preference for Conservative rule rather than for pacts with the SDP, surely reveals a commendable political perspective on Labour's part which, one trusts, will be equally understood and reciprocated in practice by SDP county council groups throughout the country.

Marriages of convenience invariably lack permanence as well as love, and it would be difficult to conceive of a more cynical and unprincipled cohabitation at any level than one between Labour and the SDP. Indeed, any such arrangements between the two parties would be viewed with distaste by major sections of the elector-

ate and the only certain gainer from such repugnant pairings would be the Conservative Party.

For some of us who look back on the years of conflict within the Labour Party which reached a climax ultimately with the formation of the SDP, any kind of electoral arrangement between the two parties would be a nonsense and a betrayal. The fundamental battles were not about personalities or the method of selecting a leader or MPs, or even about inflation, but about the policies to which the Labour Party was becoming increasingly committed.

The Labour Party is committed to socialism and the creation of a socialist society, in the fullest sense.

The SDP is by its very nature and composition an

anti-socialist party, and it is intellectually and in spirit fundamentally hostile to the central policies to which Labour is now committed. It is not so, there is an urgent need for the SDP to identify itself clearly on the major issues which will confront the electorate.

In addition, any electoral or working pact at council level could prove the kiss of death for the SDP, whose chances of surviving a Labour victory at the next general election, save as a progressively declining rumour, are extremely problematical. It follows that SDP members should not be under any illusion that their position would be strengthened by bringing down the present Government.

Neville Sandelson, London, E.C.4.

Sir,—The county council election results will allow all kinds of people to make silly statements based on their own prejudices rather than the facts.

Let me therefore assure Trevor Luesby (Letters, May 11) that the Association of Liberal Councillors has no intention of devoting its time and energies in the next few months to "reviving the Liberal-SDP merger issue". Whatever the merits of merger, it is clearly not a practical proposition before the next general election, and we at least are engaged in practical politics.

Tony Greaves, Association of Liberal Councillors, Bridge, W. Yorkshire.

### Why John Silkin should look to his grass roots

Sir,—On May 9 you reproduced a press release from John Silkin, MP. He had not in fact taken the time to address the Deptford Constituency Party on May 8. Verbal reports are rotated between our MP, GLC councillor, a borough councillor, and a guest speaker. John's turn is next month in the interim we take written reports that are posted out in advance.

On this occasion he did not supply his report to us in advance for posting, even though you obviously received a copy of it, and it was made available to us only five minutes before the start of the meeting.

Our membership list is currently with the London regional organiser and John Silkin has been given copies

of it. More than once we have asked him to include a personal message or report in our regular monthly deliveries to all our members. It is he who has not taken up this offer, and we therefore reject the allegation that we have denied him access to the membership. All our branches, including the Peeps branch, have invited him to attend their meetings. We have a well supported and active retired members' section. It sent a coach of members to help on the Kent coalfield picket line last year, and only a few weeks ago participated in a lobby of Parliament. I therefore fail to understand how John Silkin is unaware of their existence.

In his report he repeats his attack on the policies adopted by the rate-capped authorities. Deptford is a part of the London Borough of Lewisham, yet John Silkin has not attended a single Labour group or council meeting this year to offer his support to its campaign against Government cuts. This is in stark contrast to our two Tory MPs and is hardly a display of Labour Party unity. The reality is not that there is warfare in the party, but that John Silkin has distanced himself from the party and the Labour group on Lewisham Council. His involvement in property speculation and land deals is a growing embarrassment for the party.

The recent Wembley conference centre deal is said to have made thousands of pounds for his firm, while many of his constituents are being housed in bed-and-breakfast accommodation. And his renewed legal action against the staff of Tribune newspaper will not help party unity either.

I can only hope that in the interests of party unity, John Silkin will stop sniping at his own party, and will help us and the Lewisham Labour group to present Labour's policies to the people of Lewisham. Yours sincerely, on behalf of Deptford Labour Party, Eric Goodyer, Deptford Labour Party, London SE13.

Futures letters — page 15

### Dividing and misruling

Sir,—Frances Morrell, in her piece "Hollow unity of the white male dominated Left" (Agenda, May 13) maintains that the way to secure equality — ie freedom from discrimination for women in the Labour Party — is to discriminate in their favour. Likewise black members. From this follows her premise that the refusal to discriminate in favour of any group represents a decision to discriminate against it.

Shaky stuff. To boil it down further, the argument is that discrimination will be ended by having more discrimination, not less, and that unity can be had by dividing the party into interest groups based on genetic differences. Hooley.

This is more and beam politics in which Ms Morrell attempts to disguise her taste for discriminatory policies by accusing others of her own error. Discrimination ends when people, myself and Ms Morrell included, cease to discriminate. Unity starts from the recognition of our common humanity and our common aim to honour it, and not from emphasis of our differences. John Wood, Bath.

Sir,—I am a member of the Labour Party, white, a woman, and on the constituency management committee. I have no experience whatsoever of black people's difficulties in being represented but if they feel that the system is exclusive and unfair, something is very wrong, needs a lot of discussion, rethinking, and above all, putting right. With regard to C. Hanley's untimely letter (May 13) I assure him that should the Labour Party or any other party, for that matter, decide on an exclusive section for constructive and compassionate thinkers, he would not be eligible. Yours faithfully, Honor Truman, 3 Manor Close, East Preston, W Sussex.

### Anti-Russian, not anti-Soviet

Sir,—Michael Simmons's article, "Battle of Bush House" (The Media Page, May 13) was excellent except for one common misinterpretation.

He wrote of the BBC staff that "recent emigrés from the Soviet Union are almost by definition rigidly anti-Soviet." Yet most recent emigrés are not.

Except for a few well-known cases of dissidents who have long been politically active against the Soviet regime and a handful of people who joined their foreign spouses abroad, the bulk of Soviet emigrés — about 300,000 in the last 15 years — were ordinary citizens who, only because of their ethnic origin, were allowed by the Soviet authorities to

### Miscellany at large

Sir,—Taking my inspiration from Geoffrey Robertson (Agenda, May 10) may I suggest that the problem of women requiring sex but, for whatever reason, not getting it, of particular versions of it — for instance, because their partners are too stodgy — could easily be solved by licensed houses.

There, men could in complete safety and legality, offer their sexual services and be spared the difficulties of hanging around the streets annoying innocent people. Since you can't cure male impotency, it would be better to get it under control.

Approaches by women who have no "immoral intent" would not then be misunderstood to be anything more than friendliness — Yours faithfully, Susan Foster, Sheffield.

Sir,—As members of CND National Council, we wish to correct a possibly false impression created by Susan Milne's article on CND (May 15). Joan Ruddock, CND's current chairperson, has not yet committed herself on whether she is prepared to stand against Dan Smith is only one among a number of women and men prepared to consider standing if Joan does not. (NB1) these people do not include any of us — Yours peacefully, Jimmy Johns, Pat Armstrong, Helen John, Writtle, Essex.

Sir,—We hear so much about police violence, especially with the miners. On Saturday at Bradford City football ground I experienced the other side — the courage and would like to express my gratitude. Without the prompt and heroic attitude of the West Yorkshire police force, the tragedy would have been much worse. They were calm and efficient and many people owe them their lives. I thank them — Yours Ian D. Healey, Bradford, W. Yorkshire.

Leave for settlement in Israel. They have understandably bitter feelings towards the Russians who by and large have never been able to accommodate either in Soviet times or Tsarist times when racial prejudice was more institutionalised and the worst atrocities were perpetrated against the Jewish people.

Nevertheless, anti-Russian sentiment is not always synonymous with anti-Soviet. This is especially important in the case of the BBC's Russian Service where unfortunately neither its controllers nor its critics, both of the Left and Right, have understood the distinction sufficiently to make a proper assessment. — Yours faithfully, (Dr) R. Klimashvili, London, W6.

**Channel 4 Newsflash**

**CRISIS IN MALI**

**Unicef found her just in time.**

Fatimata is lucky. She's still suffering from acute malnutrition, but she's in safe hands with the Italian medical team for UNICEF.

Thousands of other nomad children like her are waiting for your help. We've got the emergency medical teams out there now. What we still need is your generous donations. Help keep a proud Malian tribe alive.

**MALI CRISIS APPEAL**

I enclose a donation of ☐ £100 ☐ £50 ☐ £25 ☐ £10 or ☐ £5

I am interested in making a covenant. Please send me a free leaflet.

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Cheques made payable to UNICEF. Please send SAE if receipt is required.

### Little sympathy and no tea for an ex-editor

Sir,—It is because of such people as Derek Jameson that the British press needs a Press Council.

Contrary to his imaginings (The Media Page, May 13) I have never needed to be a teamaker; and if a worried News of the World secretary chooses to vendise a man about a boyfriend problem, it seems reasonable to offer sympathetic suggestions.

Although Mr Jameson feigned surprise, pretending not to know why I was visiting the newspaper's premises, he knew full well that I was checking an article to eliminate any distortion.

His act is no more than a ploy to try to invalidate submissions I made to the Press Council four years ago. But neither this ex-editor's tea-time stories, nor any other he may care to dream up, are capable of erasing the gross atrocities relating to my husband's case.

Mr Jameson appears not to have grasped what the Press Council's function is. Apart from ensuring press freedom, it is charged with upholding newspaper standards and investigating people's complaints. Sometimes the council is the only recourse a person has against press wrongs.

As Mr Jameson fails to understand why he was censured for using his proprietor's money to pay Steven



Waldorf before his appearance as a court witness, it is hardly surprising that other Press Council rulings are beyond this ex-editor's comprehension. According to his editorial conclusions at the time, "we all in the public share the blame" that the police shot at Mr Waldorf. And now he would have us believe that because a youth is dark-skinned, he is likely to be guilty of crimes of violence. Sonia Sutcliffe, Garden Lane, Bradford, W. Yorkshire.

Sir,—In rebuking the Sun Express, Mail and Standard for the way they introduced race into their coverage of the trial of a 17-year-old youth, the Press Council was merely restating the first of the NUJ's own race relations guidelines — as Derek Jameson should know. He claims that the Press Council is requiring the jour-

nalists to "doctor the facts". But it race is, in his view, such an important factor why is he not arguing for standardisation of press practice in the reporting of crime news? How often do papers mention that a defendant is "white" or "Coloured"?

For well over a decade sections of the press have shamelessly inflated racial stereotypes like the "hugger" and using dubious ethnic crime statistics in a highly suspect way to demonstrate a presumed connection between "black youths and violent crime".

As former editor of the Express, Derek Jameson is no stranger to this partial news selection and presentation which has obscured the literal truth he claims to uphold. — Yours sincerely, (Dr) N. U. Murray, 11 Ellington Street, London N7.

### A COUNTRY DIARY

**DARTMOOR:** The phrase "Danger area" appears several times on the Ordnance map of North-west Dartmoor and, as we set out on the anniversary of VE-Day, warning flags were flying. However, even use of the ranges is not continuous and when "one area is out of bounds, access may be available to the next. Furthermore the marginal zone between the Ministry of Defence area and the main A386 road has much to offer the walker, horse-rider, and

naturalist. It was here that we gassed the first wheatears fitting from one rock perch to another. They were the outlying representatives of a large concentration of breeding wheatears which co-exist with the army. That the army is well aware of the need to maintain the landscape character and conserve the wildlife of its training areas was made clear by Lieut-Col G. N. Claydon in last year's edition of Nature in Devon. The presence of the wheatears in-

dicates that army activities have not disturbed them and an interesting thought arises that restrictions that keep people like me out, offer protection to wildlife. When I read Colonel Claydon's article I was under the impression that training areas in Devon were being given special treatment. A recent weekend in Brecon helped to inform me that, as far as conservation is concerned, all are treated alike. A Ministry of Defence department responsible for conservation was

set up in 1973. Its annual publication, Sanctuary, describes many admirable schemes for informing personnel of the needs of flora and fauna through the medium of voluntary conservation groups backed up by civilians and naturalists' trusts. This I learned as I was escorted by Pen y Fan; we were accompanied by a child aged six, uncomplainingly even when we met driving sleet; she has the advantage of an army background. BRIAN CHUGG.



After decades of official scoffing, it seems that the medicine man did know what he was doing most of the time. Norman Myers reports on the fascinating link between tribal lore and the forest plants that have entered the Western pharmacopoeia

# Shamanism without sham

THE medicine man of the developing tropics has long been revered by his fellow citizens. He has also been reviled by western doctors. He is now coming into a third phase. Third World leaders want him to contribute to modern health services.

During my 24 years of wandering across Africa, Asia and Latin America, I have frequently encountered medicine men — this being a blanket term for herbalists, witch doctors, faith healers, shamans and others who draw on tribal lore to concoct drugs from wild plants, and occasionally wild animals. I have been struck by the dozens of techniques displayed, just as I have been surprised at the hundreds of plants utilised, ostensibly with some success.

Two convergent trends are now gaining momentum in the health arena of the Third World. First, new strategies are being sought for the medicinal needs of the great bulk of Third World populations. By reason of cost and lack of professional personnel, most of the Third World cannot hope to enjoy developed-world health facilities for many decades to come. So there is growing reliance on "green medicine," i.e. plant-derived drugs and pharmaceuticals. Secondly, and closely related to the first trend, the image of the medicine man is being steadily rehabilitated in many countries, now that scientific evidence is emerging that not all his cures are quackeries.

Less than 10 per cent of the Third World's three billion people live within walking distance of a modern health facility. For most of them, the traditional healer, with his herbal treatments, is their only contact with medicine of any kind. So it makes sense to mobilise the skills of local people at village level, with their accumulated knowledge of local materials, rather than putting emphasis on a limited network of high-tech facilities in urban areas. In the words of Dr. Chen Wen-Chieh, Chinese assistant director-general of the World Health Organisation: "We now hope that the traditional countries will make better use of medicinal plants as a means to become self-reliant, since this is an appropriate health technology that accords with the cultural heritage and natural resources of countries in question — and

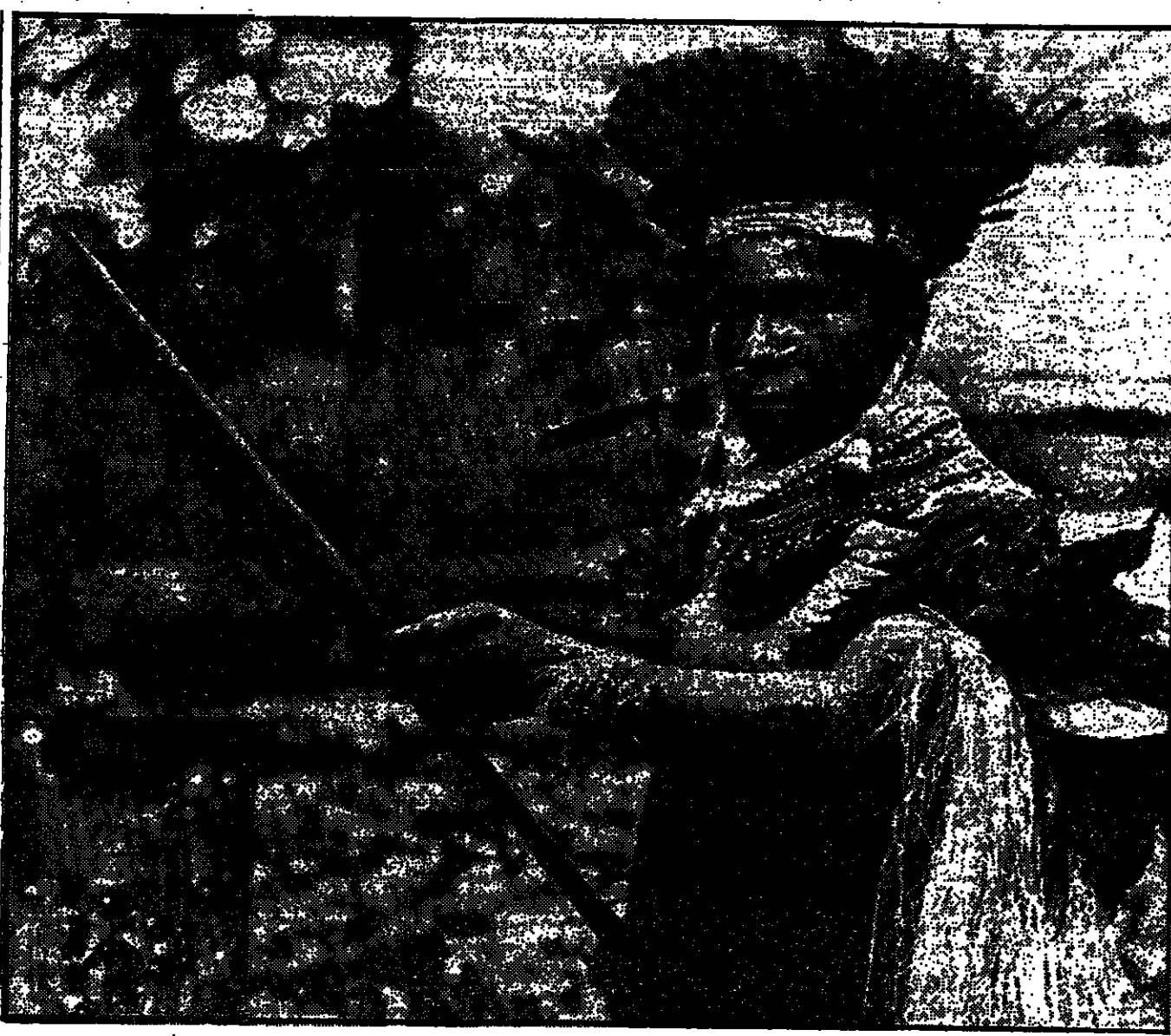
that lies within the financial reach of impoverished millions."

This health-care initiative parallels recent discoveries that the witch doctor often knows what he is talking about. According to Professor Sir John van der Horst, a Harvard University authority on traditional medicine, up to half of the drugs in native medicinal repositories "actually may cure or provide relief — if not necessarily for the reasons given by local tradition." Of 482 plant species known to be used in Ethiopia as internal remedies for infections such as tapeworm, roundworm, elephantiasis and bilharzia, almost 30 per cent have been shown through scientific testing to be effective to various degrees.

According to Dr. Oku Ampofo, director of the Centre for Scientific Research into Plant Medicine at the University of Ghana, local tribal healers achieve much success with herbal therapies for shingles, a skin infection against which modern medicine has no answer. Ampofo has also investigated a plant used by Ghanaian medicine men against malaria and urinary infections. He has found the plant harbours a compound similar to quinine, as well as an antibiotic. Now the plant's effectiveness has been documented, its drug is being administered in the form used by traditional healers, viz. as roots soaked in water.

After extensive screening programmes by Western scientists, the director general of WHO, Dr. Halfdan Mahler, asserts that "many of the plants familiar to the 'witch doctor' really do have the healing powers that tradition attaches to them. The ages-old arts of the herbalist must be tapped... There is no doubt that the judicious use of plants in primary health care can make a major contribution toward reducing a developing country's drug bill. An army of traditional healers, trained in a goal of health care for all by the year 2000."

This diagnosis is all the more acceptable when we recall it was through follow-up to clues discovered in bush surgeries, that pharmacologists came to recognise the potential of the Madagascar rosy periwinkle



Kofan medicine man from Colombia. Inset: Ethnobiologist Conrad Gorinsky

as a source of two potent drugs against leukaemia and other blood cancers. Tribal healers have led the way to the discovery of the painkillers morphine and codeine, both from the opium poppy; and of quinine, still the most effective drug against malaria, derived from the bark of the cinchona tree.

The WHO Task Force on Indigenous Plants for Fertility Regulation of Human Reproduction is searching for materials to manufacture a safer and more effective contraceptive

"pill." The team often finds that a sound bet lies with the hundreds of anti-fertility concoctions administered by tribal shamans; and 225 sound candidates have been identified from folk-lore medicine. For instance, the greenheart tree of the rain forests of Guyana has long served, according to Dr. Conrad Gorinsky, a biochemist at St Bartholomew's Medical School in London, as a reliable contraceptive. All this is little surprising, of course, when we reflect that a good

one quarter of all prescriptions in the advanced world derive directly or indirectly from plants.

So much for the two convergent trends in Third World medicine. What can be done to promote the cause of the medicine man? Following a World Congress of Folk Medicine in Peru in late 1979, leading to the establishment of the International Association of Folk Medicine, there has been an outburst of initiatives in many parts of the developing world. Several

countries, notably Indonesia, Burma, Nigeria, Tanzania and Peru, are starting to upgrade the practices of traditional medicine men in order to integrate them and their skills into national health-care systems.

The main strategy to date lies with training establishments which serve a double function. First of all, they encourage traditional seers to offer their extensive stores of knowledge in the service of public health facilities. Secondly, they instruct medi-

cine men in ways to systematise and formalise their knowledge, and likewise to eliminate various forms of "malpractice."

In line with this general approach, the Central Drug Research Institute at Lucknow, India — the site of a recent seminar on medicinal plants organised by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation — is fostering over 100 university-level teaching centres for traditional medicine, plus 156 research units. The Government of Burma has established a central research organisation that, exploiting the "knowledge resources" of the country's tribal healers, has identified 700 plants with apparent medicinal benefits. In Thailand, the government has set up 15 schools of traditional medicine in Bangkok alone. The Thai Institute for Study of Medicinal Plants has documented a host of herbal remedies, from both forest and desert plants, used by the Ayurveda for a variety of ailments and apparently possessing unusual properties to treat cardiovascular, diabetic and parasitic problems.

It was Mexican medicine men after all who drew Western attention to digoxin, a major source of cortisone for use against rheumatoid arthritis, sciatica, dermatitis and Addison's disease. It was also a critical constituent of the contraceptive pill.

Of course it is in China that the greatest progress has been made. For several decades, traditional medicine has been officially accepted alongside modern medicine.

China apart, it is in Africa that greatest efforts are being made to integrate the two systems. The University of Malawi is mobilising the skills and experience of that country's medicine men; and the universities of Lagos and Ife are doing the same in Nigeria, working in association with the National Association of Medical Herbalists.

Similar initiatives are underway in Zaire, Cameroon, Kenya and Zambia. In Zimbabwe, a medical squad of 500 Western-trained physicians is being expanded with over 4,000 African healers who are now registered as semi-professional practitioners — all the more pertinent in a country with only one fully-trained doctor for

every 9,000 persons (as compared with Britain's one to 500 or so). According to a former Health Minister of Zimbabwe, Dr. Herbert Ukwokunze, himself a qualified doctor and a spiritual medium, "The traditional healers can fill a lot of gaps. They are particularly useful with psychosomatic conditions such as asthma, tuberculosis, burns, wounds and venereal diseases."

In Tanzania, dozens of medicine men have been selected for training and certification by the Government as "medical auxiliaries," or front-line health agents, to work in cooperation with the national health service. Their traditional skills are checked and assessed by the Medical School of the University of Dar es Salaam, whereupon they receive instruction in several modern medical techniques, including personal hygiene, nutritional guidance, and a basic understanding of sanitation.

They are trained to recognise the most common diseases, such as malaria, measles, tuberculosis and gastroenteritis; and to learn what they can do to combat them by way of first-stage help. So they are equipped with such basic items as thermometers, blood-pressure gauges and simple drugs such as aspirin.

More importantly still, they are taught that preventive medicine is more beneficial, as well as far cheaper, than curative medicine; and during periodic refresher courses, they learn how to take part in preventive vaccination campaigns, supervised by visiting health experts. Of course, all "difficult" cases they encounter in their bush surgeries must be referred to district health centres.

Obviously the basic goal is to enable the best of the scientific and the traditional systems to work together. As a WHO report puts it: "An integration of the two systems, without compromise of principle yet with full understanding of both sides, should enable the rapidly underprivileged populations of the Third World to benefit from one of the fundamental human rights: the right to health."

Dr Norman Myers is a consultant in environment and development.

## Coming up for air

EVERY part, every cell of the body requires oxygen for its survival, and for this reason we are dependent on haemoglobin. This complex molecule is packed in the tiny red blood cells, and avidly absorbs oxygen from the air in our lungs. In this way the vital gas is transported by the blood circulation to all organs and tissues.

It follows, of course, that the developing foetus also requires oxygen, but because it does not breathe in the womb it must obtain its oxygen from its mother's blood.

Strangely, but for very good reasons, foetal haemoglobin is chemically different to that found in the red blood cells after birth. No one knows just how the bone marrow stem cells, which produce the red cells, switch from making one type of haemoglobin to the other around the time of birth. A recent report (Nature 313: 320, 1985) suggests that "there is some inherent developmental clock which resides in the stem cells themselves. In every minute drop of blood there are about a million red blood cells, and by extrapolation one can calculate that in the five litres of blood pumping through our bodies there are about 25 billion red blood cells in all. They take out all the haemoglobin from them, weigh it and the scales would nearly tip one kilogram."

If one could look at a single molecule of haemoglobin with the naked eye, one would see a spherical shape made up of four sub-units and in each sub-unit there would be a protein attached to an iron-containing structure; the iron is responsible for mopping up and transporting the oxygen. Now, in foetal haemoglobin, two of the four proteins linked to the

sub-units are different to those found in the adult type. This difference means that foetal haemoglobin can take up oxygen more readily, and ultimately this helps the transfer of oxygen from the mother's to the baby's blood.

But what tells the bone marrow stem cells to stop producing one type of haemoglobin and switch to the manufacture of another type around the time of birth? Obviously this switch involves a change in the genetic expression of the stem cells, and this could occur either by an inherent developmental clock in the cells themselves, or by an inductive process stimulated by the changing environment in the growing foetus.

When bone marrow cells taken from foetal lambs of different ages were infused into adult sheep whose own red cell production had been stopped, the foetal cells did not immediately start producing red cells with adult type haemoglobin. Instead, the switch only took place when the foetal cells reached the age at which the change would normally have occurred in the womb.

This finding shows that an adult type environment does not stimulate the switch in haemoglobin production, nor does the foetus provide a stimulus just before birth — this would have been circumvented by the transplanting.

Instead, the bone marrow cells somehow sense their own age and make the appropriate switch. The switch is independent of environment. Just quite how cells are preprogrammed and time their own genetic events remains an intriguing question.

Saffron Davies

THE surfaces of plants, on which the million denizens of the insect world roam, are "fractals," surfaces that seem to have more and more nooks, crannies, and areas — the closer one gets to them and this means that the world is literally bigger for small creatures than large ones: there's much more rooming to do when you're small. It's not just that you're small, it's that the same-sized world. The world is actually bigger!

This apparently crazy result means there can be many more small creatures on a plant than might otherwise be suspected, concludes a group of three biologists and a mathematician at the University of York.

But first, what is a fractal? The term was invented by mathematician Benoit B. Mandelbrot to describe lines and surfaces that were "self-similar" — ones that look exactly the same under a magnifying glass as without. That is to say, if on a large scale, a "self-similar" line looked like a zig-zag, then on closer inspection each apparently straight segment would also be a tiny zig-zag — and so on and so on. Such lines can be infinitely long within a finite space. Mandelbrot showed that coastlines, for example, were fractal. (After all what is the length of a piece of coastline? How many coves and peninsulas are to be taken into account? Should we mark round each rock? Each grain of sand? At each increase of detail the length of the coast gets greater.)

Such lines and surfaces (think of a mountain range) can be thought of as "more" than (respectively) one and two dimensional, because their chaotic wandering can take them almost anywhere, and their length and area cannot be measured uniquely. The lengths and areas depend on the scale of measurement. Moreover, a fractal line (like a doodle) might cover a surface, or a chaotic surface (like

## It's a great big world if you're really small

The smaller you are, the bigger your share of the universe. Robert Walgate admires the hidden depths of the landscape



Green peach aphid on home territory

a crumpled piece of paper) fill a volume. Mandelbrot devised a measure of this apparent extension of the dimensionality of lines and surfaces, and the result is the "fractal" dimension of the object. A coastline, for example, has a fractal dimension of not unity, but about one-and-a-half (1.2), meaning that it wanders about a bit, getting towards filling a surface (dimension two).

Now, for the first time, the York group has shown by observation that the surfaces of plants are fractal curves.

By photographing vegetation in springtime at various magnifications, and investigating numerically the wanderings of the outlines of the plants, Drs John Lawton, Mark Williams, David Morse and the mathematician M. M. Dodson discovered that a true drawing

of a plant would need a line with a fractal dimension not of one, but one-and-a-half. (Thus lines on plants have a higher fractal dimension even than a coastline.)

That does this mean for biology? A great deal. It means, literally, much more room for life. It means that smaller and smaller creatures have a larger and larger world to live in.

Not only does a small insect get more room simply because it is smaller within the same space — it actually gets more space. Thus, consider an insect and another ten times smaller. A leaf were "mere" two-dimensional surface one might pack 100 of the smaller insects (10 x 10) into an area each of the ten-fold larger insects takes up. But because the surface is fractal, its area increases on the smaller scale — by three to ten times, according to the York results. This gives room for 300 to 1,000 of the smaller insects in the space of the larger one.

Figures available for the sizes and populations of insects on plants agree with these conclusions, the York group says.

And the studies may also be significant for evolution. Because more area means more world, and increasing fractal dimension of the environment — through the break-up of continents, for example — means more room for life, more environmental niches, and hence more species. Thus perhaps here lies a possible explanation for the slowness of early evolution (when for three billion years algae dominated the seas). Perhaps then the fractal dimension of the Earth was low, and niches few.

Ref: Nature, vol 314, p 731.

## Sex by the light of the silvery moon

Paul Simons considers an extraordinary case of underwater lunacy

IT pulls the oceans into tides, sheds light on the night, and animals can navigate by and perhaps makes lunatics out of us. There's even one remarkable animal, a Japanese deep-sea ily, that liberates its sex pheromone each year in October at about 3.0 pm on the day of one of the moon's quarters.

Some plants are also cast under the lunar spell. In their natural sea habitat, the sperm and eggs of many seaweeds are released into the water at high tides, when they can try their luck at cross-fertilising with their neighbours. Even in a laboratory far away from the sea, the seaweeds depend on the moon for signalling the start of their breeding.

But precious little is known about how the lunar rhythms in animals or plants actually work. Various ideas have been suggested: the seaweeds dry out at low tide; the plants feel the changes in water pressure, or they sense the changes in light during the tides.

But none of these explains how the same plants continue to have a cycle in the laboratory. So something much more deep-seated must be behind plant lunacy, and a report in the journal Botanical Magazine (vol 67, pp 467-472) points to a new answer. P. A. Mooney and J. Van Staden studied a group of plant hormones, cytokinins, in the sea wrack *Sargassum heterophyllum*. The levels of cytokinins were measured over a 24 day period and the first thing they found was a surge from the non-sexual to the sexual fronds, closely tied with the four phases of the moon.

The sex cells themselves were shed in a number of pulses, at intervals of 13-14 days, and coinciding with the lowest spring tide shortly after new and full moon. The sheddings were immediately preceded by the surge of cytokinins in the reproductive fronds, but as yet we can't be sure that the cytokinins actually triggered the release of the sex cells.

However, this marks an important step into working out how lunacy in plants actually works — and it may hold the key to many other lunar rhythms as well.

## The agricultural scientist and the healthy growth of randomisation

They don't call it trial and error for nothing. Lindsay Paterson ponders the pitfalls of farm research

WHAT justifies scientists drawing general conclusions from individual experiments? Suppose, for instance, that you have an experiment to compare the yields of two varieties of barley. You grow them on a piece of ground near Edinburgh in the summer of 1983. After lots of careful management and measurement you conclude that one is first variety is better than the second. But how do you know whether the conclusion applies any more widely than to that place at that time?

This is a vast problem, which has attracted a vast literature from scientists, philosophers, statisticians, and sociologists. But perhaps the best way to approach it is not at the theoretical level. More revealing is what scientists have done in practice to overcome it. After all, even though the philosophers may not have solved the problems of inference, science still manages to do experiments and to produce results. Our barley experiment still ultimately leads to our beer or our whisky.

First, though, let's make an important distinction. We are dealing in our example (and throughout this article) not with pure science but with technology. The barley experiment is not a unique investigation of the genetic structure of living matter (say), but likely to be one of around 30 roughly similar trials spread throughout the country whose aim is to

provide pragmatic recommendations to farmers.

Much of the skill in designing trials of this kind is scientific common sense — a nebulous concept which might be difficult to clarify generally, but which, again, works well in practice. You do not, for example, plant your trial on ground that is excessively dry, or wet, or sunny, or shaded. In particular, you try to make sure that each experimental area is a range of conditions. If one variety always appeared near a bank of trees, and the other did not, then the first would be disproportionately exposed to being eaten by birds.

But there remain many problems of design which cannot be settled by common sense alone. Imagine (simplifying matters greatly) that you can divide each of the 30 trials into a wet block of land and a dry block. Then the common-sense approach would be to ensure

that each variety is planted on the wet block in half the trials, and on the dry block in the others. The problem is that we might not be able to say which is which. Perhaps information about wetness is too expensive to collect; or perhaps we cannot predict at the time of sowing what conditions will be like later in the season.

We then use a technique called randomisation, invented by R. A. Fisher in the 1920s. The simplest device for randomising is a coin. In our ignorance of precise conditions, we divide our trial into two blocks by some easy guideline, such as the northerly and southerly halves. For each trial we toss a coin. When it comes down heads we plant the first variety on the northern block of the trial and the second on the southern; when tails, we do the opposite.

If there are significant differences in wetness between

northern and southern blocks, each variety will on average over the 30 trials experience about as many wet conditions as dry ones. So conclusions drawn from average yields should reflect growth. We would be more reliable than if they were based on single trials.

Moreover, even if we can explicitly allow for differences in wetness, we would still use a modified form of randomisation to help allow for the myriad other factors which affect growth. We would return to dividing the trial into a wet block and a dry block, but we would now also sub-divide each block into two plots, one for each variety. The randomising device would be used to allocate varieties to plots within wet blocks, and separately within dry ones.

Fisher's technique has been enormously successful in practice, and not only in agriculture. A great deal of mathe-

matical research has been done on the kinds of random patterns which are valid, in the sense of guaranteeing that the trials will indeed give the right average results. And computers have superseded tossed coins.

Nevertheless, leaving anything to chance is only a last resort. Randomisation is most appropriate when we genuinely have a long run of very similar experiments. Unfortunately, we only ever have an approximation to that. Trials differ in soil and climate, for example. These differences loom larger in importance now than when Fisher wrote, because the design and management of individual trials have improved.

The quality of a series of trials can be assessed by the extent to which results are not identical between different plots of land sown with the same variety. Statisticians call

this non-repeatability the variance of the results. A recent study in Edinburgh of some 15 years of data from variety trials in the UK has concluded that only 9 per cent of the total variance now comes from differences between individual trials among plots with the same variety.

In other words, unaccounted-for differences among sites and years contribute 91 per cent of the uncertainty in making inferences from the series. The next step, on which we are currently working, is to improve the design of series of trials. And that, to come back to our opening question, is as it should be. If there is one piece of advice which a statistician would give to scientists, it is: never do anything only once.

Dr Lindsay Paterson is at the Unit of Statistics of the Agricultural and Food Research Council at the University of Edinburgh.



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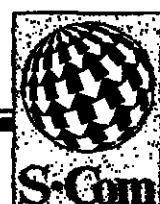
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The latest computer games run from Roland Rat to interactive fiction. Jack Schofield explores the big screen connection and tells the success story of the Hobbit and the Hitch-Hiker

## The game of the book of the film

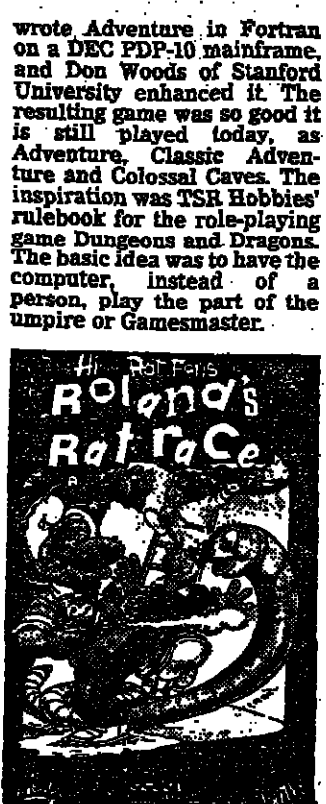
YOU MAY have seen the film, watched the TV series, listened to the record and read the book, but have you played the computer game? Game software can be seen as yet another merchandising opportunity, so it is no surprise that there are games of Ghostbusters, Gremlins, ET, Indiana Jones, Tron, and Alien. With the new James Bond, A View To A Kill, the game will be launched a week before the movie.

Other films to inspire games include Dark Crystal, The Rocky Horror Show and Paul McCartney's Give My Regards To Broad Street. Television programmes covered include Minder, Dallas (in the Dallas Quest adventure), The Prisoner, Airwolf, Colditz, Star Trek, The Dukes of Hazzard and The Magic Roundabout. Cartoon characters to appear in games include BC, Mickey Mouse, The Incredible Hulk, Spiderman, and Raymond Briggs's Snowman, and there's a game of Spy vs Spy from Mad. Even Roland Rat has his own game, Roland's Rat Race.

A few of them are good. Some of them are awful. The sound, graphics and game design may have little or nothing to do with the original, as with the wretched BBC Soft game Dr Who. But even when there is a connection, as in Atari's ET Phone Home, the game may still be a stinker.

However, when the game is an adventure and the original a book, the connection may be beneficial. At worst the book may provide clues on how to solve the puzzles of the game. It could also lead the characters a depth and resonance there isn't time to build up within the game format. Best of all, the game may extend the book in new ways, as in Infocom's The Hitch-Hiker's Guide To The Galaxy.

Adventure gaming started in 1975 when Will Crowther



Roland's Rat Race

Adventure had some terrific scene-setting descriptions, but you were only allowed two words at a time (verb noun) to direct your character through adventuresland. Take lantern. Go north. Open door. Kill snake...

The next breakthrough came in 1977. The Artificial Intelligence Lab at MIT was working on English language input. Joseph Weizenbaum wrote the famous Eliza. Wingard wrote a control language. Shrdlu, and four programmers wrote Zork, yet another adventure game set in an underground empire. The difference was in the command structure: it could cope with prepositional phrases, indi-

rect objects, multiple direct objects and compound commands. Thus it was possible to direct your character in much more human-like terms. Zork was a huge success, and it led to the founding of Infocom.

Three years later Roberts Williams discovered adventure games when her husband Ken brought a terminal home from work. She didn't see why she couldn't write one, so she did. Later Roberts and Ken founded Sierra On-Line and achieved fame and fortune with the first real high-resolution graphics adventure, The Wizard And The Princess.

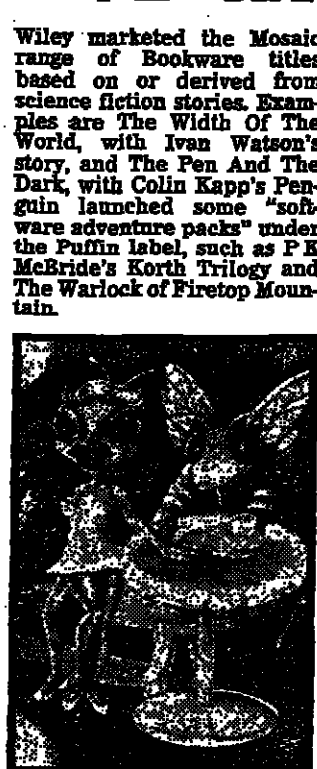
But Sierra's first game — now forgotten — was probably the first to draw on literary inspiration. Mystery House was based very loosely on Agatha Christie's Ten Little Indians.

However, it was 1983 before literature had a real impact on the adventure game, when Philip Mitchell wrote The Hobbit in Australia. The Hobbit computer game followed Tolkien's novel fairly closely, and so the publisher, Melbourne House, packaged the game with a paperback of the book.

There were four factors in its success. First, it had graphics like The Wizard And The Princess. Second, it had an excellent command parser and some independent characters, like Zork. Third, it was written for the Sinclair Spectrum — which was, at the time, almost bereft of good software. Fourth, and not least, it was an extremely good game.

Software houses saw there was money to be made out of converting books into adventure games, and The Hobbit supplied the formula. Now book-ventures range from Alice's Adventures Under Ground to Dante's Inferno (Richard Shepherd) via Macbeth (Creative Sparks).

Three book publishers who have been involved are John Wiley, Penguin and Century.



The Hitch-Hiker's Guide

Century has launched software packs containing not short stories but massive books like Legend, by David Gemmell, and The Horse Lord, by Jonathan Griffiths. The former comes with a role-playing game and a war game; the latter comes with an arcade game "inspired by the novel".

None of these efforts approaches the newer Infocom games for quality, complexity or — it must be admitted — price. Infocom games are text only, which means no memory-hungry graphics. Further, they are all on disc, which means a vast amount of data can be used. This gives them a huge advantage over Spectrum tape games, where everything

has to be crammed into 40K of free memory.

Marc Blane's adventure Deadline illustrates the possibilities. You play a detective and have twelve hours (game time) to solve a murder mystery. You may arrest the murderer and get a conviction, but this is far from certain. You can also arrest the wrong suspect, or arrest the right one but not get a conviction (a letter explains why the jury wasn't convinced), or get killed or just run out of time.

Another step forward is The Hitch-Hikers Guide To The Galaxy, where the plot, characters and humour of the original radio/TV series/book have been extended by the original author, Douglas Adams. He worked closely with Infocom's Steven Meretzky, who wrote Planetfall and Sorcerer. The result is an adventure where the text is copious, original and fun to read.

Naturally most adventures revolve around the intricacies of plot rather than love, poetry or psychology. But these are early days of the genre is only ten years old. As writers explore the possibilities of multiple plots and open-ended adventures, the games can be expected to become even more complex and interesting.

Meanwhile the game-writer who is stuck for an idea has lots of good books to choose from. Popular adventures often depend on presenting a complete, logical, self-contained world, which suggests James Joyce's Ulysses ought to be considered. For someone who wants a real challenge, how about Ezra Pound's Cantos? The headscratching among Spectrum owners would be wondrous to behold.

Infocom games are available for the Apple, Atari, Commodore 64, IBM PC, CP/M and other micros. The importer, Softset, can be contacted on 01-844 2040.



Legend — a fantasy game by John Lambhead and Gordon Paterson

### LETTERS:

## Towards the new world in a Morris Minor

JACK Schofield (Micro, May 2) reckons that "8-bit technology... has had it". He is wrong. From the school perspective, 8-bit 32k machines, as exemplified by the BBC-micro, are here to stay. This is not putting our collective heads in the sand, but a simple fact of life.

There has been an enormous investment of time and money in this machine, which does the job it was designed to do extremely well. We have not the resources to be into "hi-tech" for its own sake, and could not conceivably junk all our existing machines, even if we wanted to.

Our 8-bit BBC machines have managed to get us all moving, and these Morris

Minors of the computer scene will continue to get us from A to B for a long time to come.

Dick Clay,  
Martina Clarke,  
Brighaw Comprehensive,  
Leeds.

**Chalk carve-up**

THE article by Malcolm Smith on soil erosion (Futures, May 9) begs comparison with recent research into a similar problem being experienced on the South Downs.

Nature conservationists have long been concerned about losses of traditional chalk grassland to the plough. Perhaps as worrying are the results of recent studies by Dr John Boardman

of Brighton Polytechnic which have revealed a frighteningly similar situation in Sussex to that described for South Somerset in the article. Major soil losses in Sussex have been identified where down slope, rolling, steep slopes and large field sizes coincide. This erosion is brought on by early winter rainfall on fields drilled with winter cereals.

These results raise further doubts about the wisdom of the current fashion for long-term cereal cropping in such situations. We hope that the Ministry will take note and act quickly before what little soil remains in these areas starts (in the words of the Paul Simon song) "slip-sliding away".

J. E. Deans,

Director,  
Sussex Trust for Nature Conservation,  
Henfield,  
West Sussex.

**Scattered showers**

IN describing Derek Winstanley's work on rainfall trends in the Sahel (Futures, April 18), John Gribbin suggests that the scientific consensus is that rainfall variations are essentially random and that the recent long run of dry years is a chance occurrence.

This was certainly the view in the mid 1970s but since then I believe there has been a significant shift in meteorological opinion. For example, in 1983 Professor Kenneth Harve in a revised version of Climate and Desertification

— a report originally prepared for the United Nations Conference on Desertification in 1977 — stated: "The possibility of permanent desiccation of the dry belt climate of Africa cannot, in the judgment of this reviewer, be ruled out."

Analyses at the University of Reading presented to a meeting of the Royal Meteorological Society in London last January, show that a consistent feature in West Africa since 1963 has been a considerably reduced rainfall in the middle of the rainy season. Rainfall early in the season has continued to show random variation, with severe droughts occurring in years when these early rains failed.

In spite of much research and speculation, the causes of the reduction in rainfall remain unclear and firm predictions are not possible. However, even if rainfall in certain areas of the last 18 years could obviously recur, it therefore seems prudent that development planners should regard the rainfall regime of the last 20 years as the norm and certainly unwise to expect a return to the abnormally wet conditions of the 1950s. There is an urgent need for a much greater involvement of climatologists in development planning.

Yours faithfully,  
M. D. Bennett,  
University of Reading.

## Slugs and the sixth sense

Brian Bloomfield looks beyond the fifth generation

WHILE many people are still trying to come to grips with the concepts and terminology which characterise fifth generation computers — parallel processing, machine intelligence, logical inferences per second (LIPS), expert systems — the elements of the sixth generation are already being researched. And a glimpse at just what is being planned reveals the fact that each successive generation requires us to suspend belief to an ever greater extent. For the concept of a computer incorporating biological components — a biocomputer — is under serious discussion and preliminary experimentation is being conducted in leading computer research laboratories.

Incredible as it may seem, Machine Intelligence News recently reported that some researchers are currently using slugs and squids to study signal processing. One aim of this research is to develop analog biocomputer components; these will be incorporated alongside conventional circuitry in order to handle difficult tasks such as natural language processing and robot vision.

The basic stimulus for this line of research is the greater power and sophistication of biological systems in handling sensory data and parallel processing. But another reason lies in the physical constraints imposed upon the miniaturisation of silicon based components — eg problems of heat dissipation. New materials such as gallium arsenide will provide a breathing space in allowing a greater degree of miniaturisation than silicon but will inevitably run up against similar physical limits. Thus, in a desire to prepare the ground for the time when such barriers are reached, scientists are now looking at the dimensions of the very building blocks of living matter — namely, proteins and DNA.

Machine Intelligence News has led to speculation that computers with components built of protein structures and the like — aided by the new techniques of biotechnology — will allow billions of computer-like molecular "switches" to be crammed into one cubic centimetre!

Moreover, the ramifications go much further than the question of miniaturisation. In order to appreciate the revolutionary implications of the sixth generation concepts, it is useful to contrast them with the received wisdom of the still nascent fifth generation. At present, many in computing and artificial intelligence (AI) regard the human brain as a form of computer, a biological information processor. The mind and human knowledge are regarded as the software — comprised of known facts, rules of inference and various heuristics.

On this view, thinking is orderly and ultimately understandable. It gives a large enough machine — in terms of computational theory and logic. For instance, take the example of expert systems which are now being developed to aid or substitute human decision-making. These are built around a

knowledge base of inference rules; the assumption being that human decisions are largely rule-governed.

Now, what is interestingly different about the sixth generation is that the striving for the kind of accuracy and certainty implicit in current approaches is subordinated to the goal of obtaining more powerful, because more human-like, processing. Whilst exponents of the fifth generation often eschew — or at least prefer not to mention — the human qualities of intuition, creativity, spontaneity, and judgment, visionaries of the sixth generation may consider them to be essential. For example, at the Bell Laboratories in the USA, where scientists are researching the brains of slugs, the aim is to simulate an analog machine that will operate like neural networks — the structures which make up the nervous systems of living organisms. It is hoped that such a system could handle fuzzy or incomplete information, offer graded responses to input data and open up new forms of computation.

The fact that analog computers do not have the accuracy of digital machines is not perceived as a difficulty. This is because the ultimate goal is to develop machines which behave more like humans rather than like ordinary digital computers. It is machines that arrive at sensible if not totally accurate responses. In other words, sensibility, rather than accuracy, differential, rather than on/off processing. But another reason lies in the physical constraints imposed upon the miniaturisation of silicon based components — eg problems of heat dissipation. New materials such as gallium arsenide will provide a breathing space in allowing a greater degree of miniaturisation than silicon but will inevitably run up against similar physical limits. Thus, in a desire to prepare the ground for the time when such barriers are reached, scientists are now looking at the dimensions of the very building blocks of living matter — namely, proteins and DNA.

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David Bodanis reports on the giant computer project that will put the English language back into alphabetical order

## How the OUP redefined a dictionary

The good book — next edition 1989. Picture by Don McPhee

IN THE air-conditioned homes of Tampa, Florida, in sitting rooms and kitchens and spare bedrooms and television rooms — anywhere in fact where an IBM PC junior can be fitted — over one hundred modern American housewives are busily typing out the text of the Oxford English Dictionary, all 60 million words of it: etymologies from the Baltic (polo!) diacritical marks to show proper medieval usage, and all the other odds and ends necessary to present "the entire vocabulary of the English language since 1150".

This exercise in cross-cultural incomprehension "Probably not very many of the typists had used the OED before," suggested their American supervisor in a telephone interview — is the brainchild of Richard Charlton, a managing director at Oxford University Press headquarters. A few years ago he noticed that with the four volume updating supplement to the original 1884-1928 dictionary and its 1933 supplement being nearly completed, and up being a supplement, and that the dictionary's users might be

would be an ungainly beast to use. Merging the entries in one super-dictionary was the obvious solution, but as there are 33,000 dual entries, with some of them containing up to 30,000 words, there was no way to do that by hand. There were just too many words.

The project was passed over to Timothy Benbow, who had worked as manager of the Press's computer typesetting operation back in the mid-Seventies, and now was in for what he calls "a project so vast that it had to be planned thoroughly before it began; it would be quite impossible for me or any other individual to carry out its details personally." With help from a Department of Trade and Industry grant, Benbow, along with Edmund Weiner, the editor of the New OED, organised an eight month study of how the entries in Murray's original dictionary were structured — the exact order and typography used for derivations, pronunciation changes, written form variants, etc.

Even after the eight months there were still so many exceptions that Benbow had the Florida typists begin their copying with the letter "M", on the reasoning that by the time the original OED editors had

reached that far they would have smoothed out their style enough to have fewer exceptions than earlier on. In spite of this help a number of the Florida typists could not get the text of the original entries, and had to be left off. The reason the entries had to be analysed so carefully was that the Press officials realised they had the chance to turn the computerised OED into a research tool of extraordinary power.

A printed dictionary of much length can never be fully cross-referenced because the references quickly grow longer — than the original dictionary. On a computer, however, the cross-references would never have to be specified until they were requested. The rest of the time they could remain in the software as simple rules for combining marked portions of the entries.

Some problems Benbow and associates note a computerised OED could resolve are the following:

- What interjections were in common use in the period 1670-1720?
- List all medical syndromes with the date at which they were named and the publication where the first description appears.

- List any quotations that associate peacocks with either scandal or philanthropy.
- What terms have definitions that contain the character string "... polymers", and what chemical structure does each definition give?
- In an old manuscript document there are several illegible words. They all possess the same OED's complete variant lists.
- What meanings of words does Milton follow Spenser in using?
- List the participial adjectives ending in "ale" (modelled on the Latin), noting which are obsolete or archaic, their date range, and who first used them.

The last question, for example, which would be a nice task to keep a classroom of delinquents busy for a few years, could be answered in minutes by a properly computerised OED. ("Immolate," obs. 1534-1830. More; "Immunate," obs. 1583. R. Barnes; "Impermeable," 1820-67. Feats...")

Plans now are to publish a printed version of the fully

collated dictionary in about 1989. This will be the test of how accurate the laborious Florida keying and Oxford proof-reading has been; it will also be an opportunity to convince OED owners that they need to buy a new version.

After that comes the fun part. The OED will stop being printed, and will be available, as it's revised, only on computer. No home computer available today has the memory needed — two gigabytes, the equivalent of almost 6,000 of today's 256 kilobyte standard discs — but the OED people are gambling that by the time they are ready, around 1990, optical devices will be popularly available that can take all that memory on one or two discs. If the optical discs are late the dictionary will be marketed on-line, through data banks such as the popular Dialog.

This is either a business gamble, or the set-up for a business killing. It is hard to tell how many of the people who will buy the 1989 combined OED will realise that they will have bought an item woefully out of date. All that's certain is that for whatever sales are made this time around all the Oxford Press will have to produce are

inexpensive video discs. The only paper costs which are budgeted at £2 millions for the 1989 printed version — will be those for wrapping, and perhaps an instruction manual.

Since the Oxford Press is a charity, any profits will be ploughed back into operations, especially support for scholarly works that might be losers. If there are no profits, the satisfaction of having advanced learning through the computerised OED project alone will have to do.

Revisions after that point will be simple, and the Press is considering further expanding the dictionary once it is computerised, through the addition of line-drawings, an integrated thesaurus, Australian, Canadian and South African dictionaries, and all the other useful things that can be built up from the base of OED entries.

What do current OED users think of the computerised version? In the latest survey the Press has taken, almost all are for it. The only exception came from a librarian who sternly listed seven reasons for using the printed version always. Following which she wrote: "But cheer up, I retire next year"





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More appointments appear on page 18

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## DIARY

**THE PRESIDENT** of Cameroon visited the Foreign Office on Tuesday morning to meet Sir Geoffrey Howe. One hopes that the President's knowledge of Walt Disney's oeuvre is not commensurate with his political acumen. He might have wondered at the band striking up "I'm the King of the Jungle, the Jungle VIP" in his honour.

**THE MIRROR** yesterday renounced its pornographic past in a powerful leader denouncing the permissive society. Pornography "in its softest form, appears in popular newspapers including, in the past, The Mirror," it wrote. The renunciation came too late for the JCR to Oxford, which has just cut its daily order from five to one. The JCR condemned the Mirror for "its increase in features on stockings and suspenders" and the replacement of the Fosdyke saga by the semi-pornographic Jane cartoon.

**MR HARRY COHEN**, caddy MP for Leyton, has sadly failed to raise in the Commons the disturbing matter of the doctor whose BUPA award-winning work on twisted testicles was represented as work on peptic ulcers to save Princess Michael's sanity (this column, May 9). Mr Cohen sought to table a motion noting that "as BUPA clearly has difficulty distinguishing between the two, this is confirmation of the poor quality of private treatment." The would-be motion also referred to the Government's NHS policies as "the equivalent of a great number of testicles." The Speaker rejected the motions on grounds of "unbecoming impropriety" and since "it seeks to use the name of a member of the Royal Family to influence debate." The Table clerk added drily: "Mr Speaker does not think that the removal of the references to Princess Michael would make the remainder of the text acceptable."

**MOSCOW, VE Day.** Mr Denis Healey is at the centre of things, gladdening all around him. But as he coaches the final enclosure to watch the ceremonies he realises with alarm that he has lost the appropriate documentation. He unconsciously pulls out his wallet and flashes a pass at the guard, who duly waves him into the VIP enclosure. The pass? His London Transport OAP bus pass.

**AN ECCENTRIC** letter has gone out to all reporters on the Daily Star setting out guidelines for the future. The editor, Mr Lloyd Turner, talks of the Sun being "in the gutter" and the Mirror "wandering aimlessly" and exhorts his team with the ringing words: "We walk straight down the middle of the footpath of Britain with our heads held high." Well, almost straight down the middle. For Mr Turner also wishes his team to be "taking a very close look at what is happening in the gutter and perhaps putting a foot in it from time to time." One final caution: "We are national. We do not shove Northern lingo like BARMOT down the throats of our readers."

**NO FLIES** on would-be students at Oxford. Room hire for Mr Pym's meeting on Tuesday night was £15. The University law society promptly charged television stations £50 each for entry to the event. One rang his news desk for advice. "Pay by cheque," it went. "We'll stop it in the morning."

**THERE** is a big demand in Moscow for copies of Literaturnaya Gazeta which, to the astonishment of most Russians, has started to serialise the latest work of John le Carré. The Little Drummer Girl is admittedly sympathetic enough to meet official approval. On the other hand the Lit Gaz is the journal which once described le Carré as "the evil genius of the British spy-masters" and one of the "cold war propagandists." That was when he was writing about Smiley's duels with Moscow centre.

**THE LATEST** thing for country-minded Islingtonians — horse mules. Tallyho. Feed comes from Jordan. The Biggleswade health food suppliers and is "very palatable with an appealing nose." It is most attractive to the horse's eye... only natural ingredients. Try it with skimmed milk.

Alan Rushbridger

This weekend the Communist Party holds a special congress to discuss its internal differences. MARTIN LINTON reports

# Watch yet another party tear itself to pieces

OF ALL BRITAIN'S political parties none has indulged in as much nostalgia about VE-Day in the past fortnight as the Communist Party. There have been meetings and rallies all over the country to mark the 40th anniversary of the "People's Victory," and the Morning Star is taking over Alexandra Palace in London for a "Victory over Fascism" Festival.

But the nostalgia is not just for the military victory in which Britain and the Soviet Union fought side by side. It is just as much about the political victory which followed the war and which represented the high tide of electoral support for the Communist Party.

In the 1945 election the Communists won two seats in Parliament and polled over 100,000 votes. The Daily Worker sold 100,000 copies a day and the party had 50,000 members. Since then the party's decline has been remorseless. The party now has only 15,000 members. The Morning Star sells fewer than 14,000 copies a day in this country and the Communist candidates won a combined total of only 11,593 votes at the last election, none of them polling more than three per cent.

So it is ironic that the Communist Party and the Morning Star should have chosen this month, in the midst of their VE Day celebrations, to tear themselves apart. But that will be the inevitable outcome of the Special Congress of the Communist Party at Hammer-smith Town Hall in west London to be held this weekend.

The Congress has been called specifically to discuss the "deep political differences" within the party, and almost the entire three-day event will be taken up with a fight to the finish between the two factions, the majority who are grouped around the general secretary of the Communist Party, Gordon Lennan, and the editor of the Morning Star, Tony Chater, who have been accused of "sectarianism" — refusing to toe the party line laid down by the executive.

The highpoint of the Congress is likely to come on Sunday afternoon when Tony Chater and his 39 comrades appeal against their expulsions or suspensions to the 251 delegates. Chater is no charismatic leader. He is a rather diffident, academic speaker. A former college lecturer from Bedfordshire, his speech is certain to stir up fierce emotions.

The hardliners' case is often expressed in intricate ideological arguments about the leading role of the working class" but, stated bluntly, it is their view that the Eurocommunists have strayed away from the path of true Marxism and have been seduced by fashionable, bourgeois ideas. They, the hardliners, believe that they have stuck by their traditional revolutionary beliefs.

The Eurocommunists' case is essentially that their opponents have failed to move with the times, to adjust to new realities and to interpret Marxism as a living faith. But the case is also disciplinary. The hardliners have defied the party rules, they say, "hijacked" the party's paper, the Morning Star, and are now guilty of the gravest offence in the rulebook — sectarianism.

They point to the many Morning Star Readers and Supporters' Associations that are springing up in all parts of the country as evidence that the Star is building up the framework of a separate party for a future breakaway. The Morning Star denies this. The supporters' associations are there to help the paper in its imminent relaunch as a tabloid newspaper. It is to be printed on a new £850,000 web-offset press which is now installed and is only waiting for last minute teething problems to be sorted out before it can start rolling.

Officials at the party headquarters are sceptical of the need for local supporters' groups to help with the relaunch of the Star. They point to the parallel with the Militant readers' and supporters' groups inside the Labour Party which act as a cover for factional activities.

They also point to the fact that the Star is already having to pay charges of £7,000 a week on the new press, and the only source of income that can enable them to do this is the advance payment of about £300,000 they have received from the Soviet Union. More than half the daily print run of the paper is sold in Eastern Europe.

Now that the 251 delegates to the party Congress have all been elected by their local branches, the arithmetic suggests that the Eurocommunists will have a majority of about 150 to 90, or 160 to 80, with only 10 delegates marked down as doubtful or uncommitted. The leadership has been accused of gerrymandering the result but no one doubts that this two-to-one majority will stay with them on all the votes and lead to a rejection of expulsion from the hardliners.

But the Eurocommunists fear that their victory will be rather like catching a lizard by the tail and finding that the animal can still break away. Their real quarry is the Morning Star which, despite its falling circulation, is still the party's most important asset, and a mere defeat of the hardliners will not give them back control of the paper.

Both sides are already looking with one eye beyond the Congress to next month's annual meeting of the People's Press Printing Society, the cooperative that owns the Morning Star and is in its turn "owned by its readers."

Last year's seven regional annual meetings of the PPS produced some of the most extraordinary scenes in the history of the dispute, with the Glasgow meeting breaking up in chaos and violence without a vote and others reduced to a standstill by faction fighting. The voting was so close that the hardliners took four of the six vacancies on the Star's management committee, and the Eurocommunists took two.

This year the Star is holding only three annual meetings in Glasgow, Manchester and London, but the Eurocommunists are organising coaches to bring their supporters from their strong areas, particularly Scotland and Wales. They cannot win control of the Star this year because even if they win all five vacancies they will only have seven seats out of 16.

The pages of the Morning Star, however, describe a very different view of the world, a world in which a small and unrepresentative group of Eurocommunists are trying to hijack the Communist Party and infect it with their own brand of revisionism and reformism, a world in which they are trying to dilute the sacred principles of Marxism-Leninism (and even drop the Leninism) at the same time as victimising members in a series of unnecessary purges.

It is like a play in which every single character is mis-cast, with the Eurocommunists who have long campaigned for more freedom and tolerance in the party crying for the expulsion of "sectarians," and the hardliners, for long the advocates of strict discipline and democratic centralism, appealing for a vote against the autocratic rule of the executive. The only certainty at the moment is that the cast will be a good deal smaller by the end of the day.

on the party executive to crack down on what they consider to be "sectarian" elements.

Many of the suspensions followed an inquiry in Hackney, in north-east London, into alleged malpractice in the registration of party members who were dead, had moved or had left the party, and the use of false addresses in order to boost the branch's membership to qualify for more delegates to the party congress.

But most of the expulsions have been against leading hardliners, such as the editor of the Morning Star, Tony Chater, and his deputy David Whitfield, who have been accused of "sectarianism" — refusing to toe the party line laid down by the executive.

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DAVID CANTER on the long term lessons from Bradford

## Fire escapes

IN THE Bradford stadium fire, as in all other major disasters, human reactions, crowd control and management played a major part in turning a dangerous situation into a disastrous one. Many of the things that happened in Bradford have happened before in other emergencies. While rebuilding stadia at great expense will alleviate some of these problems, such tragedies will continue to occur unless the human factor is taken fully into account.

Human actions in fires and other dangerous incidents have been the focus of attention at the Fire Research Unit at the University of Surrey for the last 10 years. Their work has revealed trends—which showed themselves yet again in Bradford—which suggest that a concentration on the hardware of sports grounds (the stands, walls and doors) may not be enough.

Contrary to popular belief, people do not run wildly away from the early stages of a fire. They often stand and look with curiosity. Even the television commentator at Bradford stadium mildly noted the fire in the stands and said, as is typical of such events, that he hoped it was not serious. Children stood and looked, and as far as they were concerned from news reports, in the early stages people in other parts of the threatened stands who could not see the fire, were not informed of it. Exactly the same lack of concern with the early warnings can be found in the Summerland fire of 1973, the Kentucky Supper Club fire of 1977, the Woolworth's fire of 1978, and in many of the other major fire incidents that have occurred since.

In Bradford the fire was there for all to see, unlike the Woolworth's and the Supper Club fires. But in these critical early seconds—when people could have been alerted and probably safely evacuated—only those close to the fire appear to have been informed and these started to leave only slowly. What good are regulations that require the possibility of total evacuation within 24 minutes if it takes 34 minutes for people to realise that something has gone wrong? The Bradford fire could be seen and yet initial reactions appear to have been slow. A bomb could not be seen, nor a broken gas main nor any of many other potential hazards. Reactions are therefore likely to be even slower in these situations.

This slowness of response goes against all the general myths of uncontrolled panic. It appears to be a function of two different common psychological processes. One is that most people do not understand the rapid development of fire. They see the early stages as controllable and do not realise how rapidly it can get out of control. In the Kentucky Supper Club fire, in which 164 people died, the fire had been discovered 20 minutes before a general evacuation was attempted.

The delay in response is also a product of the strange human foible of not wanting to look foolish. What if the fire is quickly put out? Or it is not really a fire after all? Most people feel it would be silly to do something which might later have proved unnecessary. So they wait until there is no doubt. By then it may be too late. This slow reaction is magnified in crowds. When large groups of people are gathered together it is remarkably difficult for people at some distance from the threatening circumstance to know what is going on. The deaths in Trafalgar Square during the 1983 New Year celebrations could also be traced to people at the back of the crowd being unaware of what was happening at the front. Subsequent crowd control systems introduced

displays and other information to tell the crowds what is happening. In a football stadium there is a public address system. At Bradford, it is difficult to know exactly what happened, but the question must be raised whether or when the public address system was used to advise people to leave. Was this early enough to have saved some lives? In one remarkable incident at an American racecourse in the 1950's, the commentator who had access to the public address system was able, as the stand collapsed, to give instructions to people—and so enable them to escape, saving many lives. Hopefully the new regulations that will follow this recent disaster will look closely at the information given to the crowd, the way this is presented, and the systems available for presenting it.

Of course, even information given early to everybody can be rendered useless if the means of escape are not accessible or are blocked. Here again, psychological research has some important messages. The fire regulations tend to assume that people will distribute themselves evenly between all available exits. Not only does this ignore the human foible of the in-firm and the out-firm, who move at different speeds and may require different routes out, but it also ignores the well-established fact that people will tend to attempt to leave the way they came in.

In the Summerland fire, the staff left by the fire escapes that had been their normal means of entry, but the customers attempted to leave by the main entrance, trapped through sheer pressure of numbers. When the way in is locked, and so people cannot get out the way they came in, the disaster is compounded manyfold. Yet many places of entertainment or where crowds gather together are still regularly locked for purely commercial reasons. In office buildings and hospitals, and many other places where there is fear of fire, there are fire escapes and other important ways out of the building may be locked. The reason relates to a lack of awareness of the risks involved in locking doors that ignore the patterns of use of the building. If exits and entrances were all in regular use there would be fewer that were unsupervised and so a temptation to lock.

There are now a number of established behavioural principles that have relevance for a general revision of fire and safety regulations, but government response is all too often a knee-jerk reaction to a major incident. This type of legislation by disaster may not deal with more fundamental psychological issues which turn threatening situations into tragic ones.

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TONY JENKINS reports from Tegucigalpa on the infighting between colonels and generals

## Lighting a fuse under Reagan's ally

THE TRADE unions in Honduras are set to start a national strike today which has already sparked talk of a coup d'état. Everyone has been asking "What has happened to Doctor Roberto Suazo Cordova?"

Dr Suazo is President of Honduras. For the last three years the country has been known as the "model democracy" in Central America, the linchpin in the regional struggle to "contain communism."

Honduras has provided a US-run training base for Salvadoran troops; it has helped CIA-backed counter-revolutionaries to operate against Nicaragua from its territory; it has participated in almost continuous joint military manoeuvres with the Pentagon; and it has allowed the US airforce to use it as a centre for intelligence-gathering operations.

Now the constitutional crisis facing the President threatens an end to all this. President Suazo has been behaving so bizarrely that the deputy foreign minister recently had to summon the dean of the diplomatic corps to reassure him that the President had not gone mad. The problem is that for the last few months Dr Suazo has been trying to ensure that he can control his succession. As one western diplomat here put it, "He wants to be the kingmaker and the power behind the throne that dishes out the money and favours after the elections."

In mid-March Dr Suazo managed to steer fractional conferences of the two major parties — Liberals and Nationalists — into choosing presidential candidates who had his personal approval. But in an effort to overturn this arrangement, an outraged National Congress voted to introduce a system of primary elections to select presidential candidates. The President vetoed the bill.

Parliament then voted to replace the Supreme Court, to which all decisions on electoral matters may be appealed. It is to be replaced by a new court. The President immediately ordered that the new head of the Supreme Court, Dr Ramon Valladares Soto, should be imprisoned. Fifty days later, though, pumpered with telephones, television and an armchair, Dr Valladares Soto still languishes in jail. In the meantime the trade unionists, the Church, the armed forces, and a majority in Congress have appealed to the President to relent. Even President Reagan phoned him to nudge him into concessions. Dr Suazo has sworn to do nothing of the kind.

Last Friday his obduracy led him to ask the armed forces to declare a "state of siege" to dissolve Congress and to exile six troublesome parliamentarians. The plane was waiting at the airport, but the officers refused to act.

On Friday week nominations for the presidency open, and the trade unions have vowed to break the deadlock before then. Two major union confederations have already voted for a national stoppage, and leaders of the other two have said they will follow suit. A strike would deal a serious blow to the fragile Honduran economy. One private businessman's leader, Joaquín Luna Mejía, has predicted it would lead to immediate devaluation. Western diplomats are concerned that, once unleashed, the strike weapon will not be controllable. "Can they recall three hundred thousand men when Suazo decides to ignore the strike?" one asked. The feeling here is that Dr Suazo will not bow to the unions' demands. His labour minister has already warned that the

strike will be declared illegal. To repress the strike Dr Suazo will need the backing of the armed forces. That could be dangerous, as the leader of the President's parliamentary opposition, Jose Azcona, points out: "Since 1929, no civilian government in Honduras has been succeeded by another one. For the last year the armed forces have been trying to stay out of politics. But now the whole country is looking to them again to resolve the crisis — but they are divided."

The army is structured on a tiered system: officers owe their principal allegiance to the colleagues who graduated from the military academy in the same year. The 11 colonels, who form the power base in the army today, are all from the "Sixth Promotion." They have an unusual reputation for being intelligent and unbrilliant.

The Sixth Promotion supports the Congress and wants the President to give way. The army, therefore, might easily refuse to obey an order to repress the strikers. As one officer said, who insisted on remaining unidentified, "If we repress the strike, it would be a catastrophe for democracy in Honduras."

As Jose Azcona believes that "if the armed forces refuse to obey the President, he would have little option but to resign." He predicts that Dr Suazo may soon seek a leave of absence for two months — for "health reasons."

If the colonels of the Sixth Promotion come out on top, this could spell very bad news for Washington. Almost all of them favour disarming the US-backed Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries and establishing normal relations with the Sandinistas. They are also opposed to the permanent series of joint exercises with US troops on Honduran soil.

On Monday President Suazo is due to visit Washington, accompanied by the head of the armed forces General Walter Lopez. Several diplomats have appealed to the General not to go; they fear the course of events in his absence.

The hope now is that either the army or President Suazo to give way. Any other solution would be unconstitutional and as Jose Azcona says, "at the very least we would lose US aid, and who knows where it could end."

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THE CRASH of the Optica observation aircraft with the death of a policeman yesterday was a sharp setback not only for the manufacturers but also for the aerial ambitions of the country's police forces.

The pioneering work of the Metropolitan and Devon and Cornwall forces with helicopters over the last ten years has established that there are many police uses for observation platforms in the sky — following suspects, photographing demonstrations, assessing traffic problems.

But helicopters are costly and the least safe way of flying, and last year the Home Office began a review of police air support. It was paying a third of the £38,000 which the Hampshire force was spending on trials of the Optica, which began and were rapidly halted on the same day.

Although the three-seater Optica could not land in a forest clearing to pick up an accident victim, as the Devon and Cornwall helicopter has done, it has excellent all-round visibility and can "loiter" at 80 mph, turning up to 180 degrees, and performing most of the observation functions the police would require. It is also quieter than a helicopter. Hampshire were intending to use it against daytime housebreaking and auto-crime.

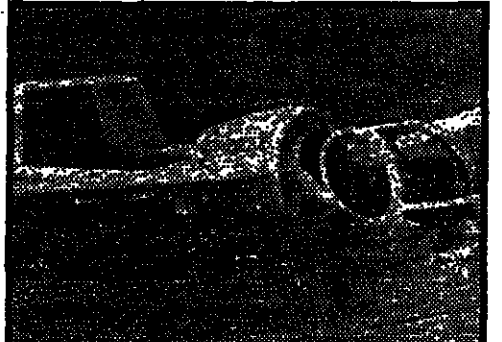
The plane which crashed was taking experimental aerial photographs of the market day crowds in Ringwood. As well as still and video cameras, the Optica can be fitted to carry all the equipment which has

proved so useful on the Met helicopters — stabilised binoculars, loud hollers, and "Nightvision" adjustable spotlights.

While the Bell helicopters used by the Metropolitan Police cost around £750,000, however, the Optica costs £140,000 and its makers, Edgley Aircraft Ltd, claim its operating costs to be one quarter of a typical single-turbine helicopter. Such figures impress the cost-conscious Home Office these days.

But the official evaluation of the Optica's police potential is now likely to go into limbo while the Department of Transport, probably with the expert help of the Civil Aviation Authority, completes its inquiry into the accident, which could take 18 months or more.

Aircraft experts pointed out yesterday that the root cause of most accidents tend to be some kind of pilot error and that the Optica, which has been in development for 10 years, is a perfectly normal aircraft to fly, has been flown by a lot of



An Edgley Optica aircraft

STEPHEN COOK on a setback for the police

## Fly in the ointment

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# At the court of Mao

George Walden on the characters of post-revolutionary China

Mao and the Men against him. By Clare Hollingworth (Cape, £16).

THIS book is not the work of a sinologist, but of someone who happens to know China rather well, and who views events there with an experienced and sensitive eye.

Ostensibly about Mao and his enemies, in fact it is a highly readable history of China since the Revolution in which the interest is kept up by the conflicts and intrigues between Mao and his opponents. It is an excellent antidote not only to sinology, but to ideology too.

China is seen not through a distorting prism of -isms, as some distant abstraction governed by the incomprehensible interplay of conflicting theories; but as an immense sprawling, incoherent and all too human drama. The men and women who struggled against each other for power emerge as highly distinctive personalities in Clare Hollingworth's account, which relies on a nice combination of documentary evidence, first hand experience and pleasing bits of gossip.

Some of the major figures are very unappealing. Lin Biao, Mao's "closest comrade in arms" is one man with a striking absence of presence, whom I once heard muttering grotesque eulogies to his master at the Gate of Heavenly Peace during the Cultural Revolution. Lin was terrified of removing his cap to reveal his bald pate, and horribly careless of personal hygiene.

The analysis of his relationship with Mao is one of the most diverting passages of the book. His betrayal of Mao at least had the merit of adding some colour to his character.

Kang Sheng, the security man, for all the world like an oriental Andropov, with the same thin glasses and thin smile is another. His habit of dressing in a white Mao-suit (surely not because white is the colour for villains in Chinese opera?) gave him a dated, gangster-like glamour.

Then there is the appalling Jiang Ching herself. You would have to be a pretty hard-hearted realist to find many redeeming features about her, and Miss Hollingworth does not try too hard. It says something for the essential arbitrariness of Communist dictatorships that people of this modest calibre can wield such power.

According to this book she even made a brief bid to succeed Mao himself. It is nice to imagine the kind of court she might have established.

Like her spiritual predecessor, the Empress Dowager, at the end of the nineteenth century, Jiang Ching had herself been a kind of minor courtesan - a highly available starlet. One thing is sure: her court would have included fewer eunuchs than that of the Empress.

Despite her extreme political views, she had very worldly appetites for love, western films and luxuries. Miss Hollingworth recalls how Mao's second wife had a breakdown when Jiang Ching appeared on the scene. She did a lot more damage to a lot more people when she got into her stride after Mao became senile. But her main characteristic, which emerges strongly from this book, is what the Russians might call vulgarity of soul.

It leaves one wondering about the chairman's choice. But then, he too was human. One of the nice things about this book is the author's refusal to treat him as a "sacred" figure, as so many otherwise sober diplomats or academics do - while not underestimating his massive achievements. A lot has already been written about him and his thoughts, but by bringing out personal touches in her discussion of his policies, Miss Hollingworth highlights some major contradictions in his make-up.

The major one is between Mao the seer and Mao the economic doer. Here he had something in common with de Gaulle, who always trusted that "I understand the world is in a state of disorder".

Not surprisingly, Mao failed to be both a rebel and a ruler, and his countrymen suffered enormously during the years of his physical and mental pre-occupation. The extraordinary effort of will of the Long March - for which Mao might almost have been preparing when, as a child, he stole himself in from the physical endurance - was never matched by the feats of economic voluntarism he aspired to in the Great Leap Forward of the Cultural Revolution.

But in a sense, he was

above it all, and Miss Hollingworth rightly stresses a certain vagueness about the man. His grasp of the world outside China was always uncertain; foreigners may have been fascinated, and revolutionaries inspired by the great Helmsman, but he knew little about them, and never bothered to find out more by travelling abroad, except twice to Moscow.

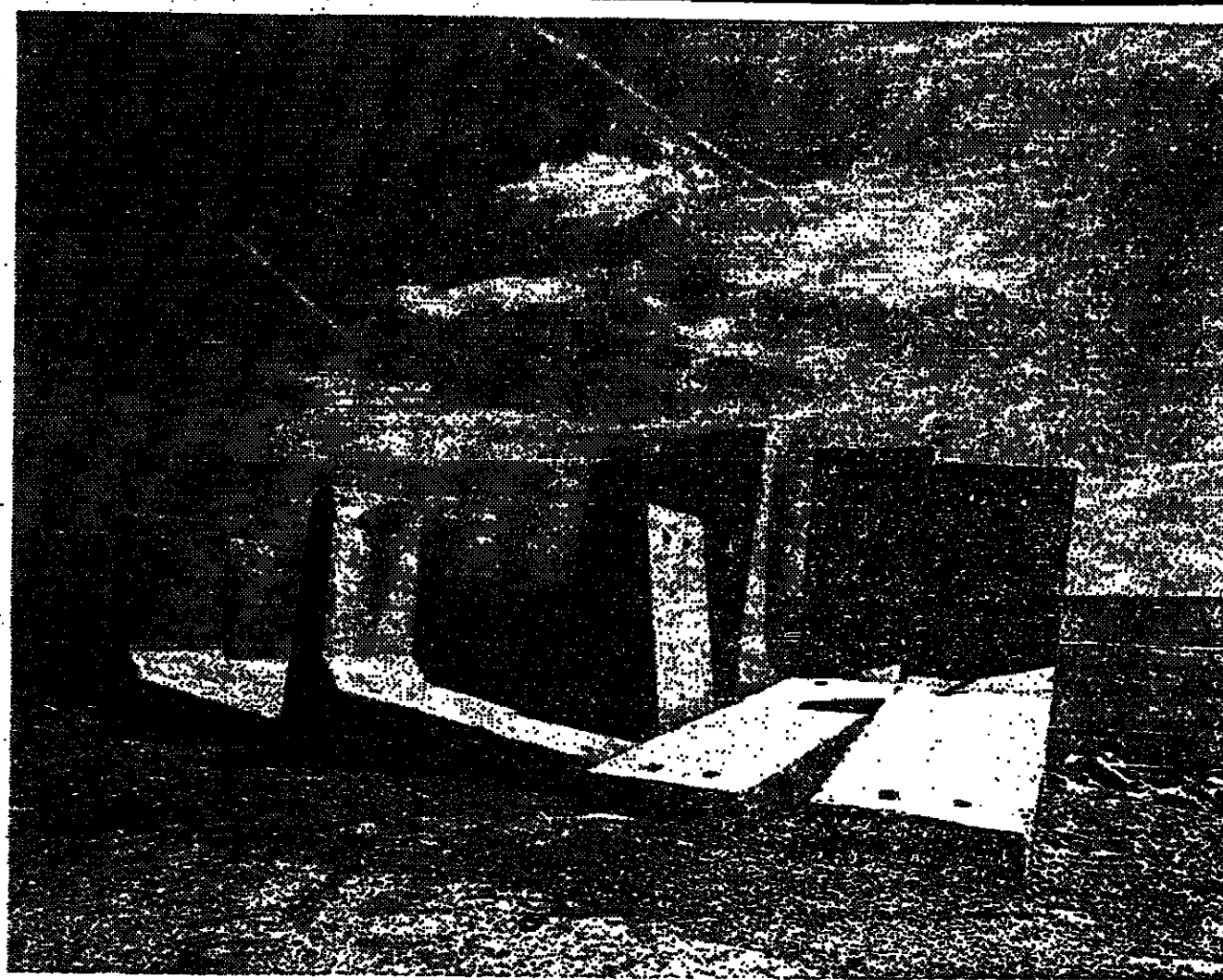
Other contradictions emerge from Miss Hollingworth's account. At different points in his life, Mao enjoyed dancing, books, activities specifically denied to China's youth in his older age. This is a not unusual attitude in other times and places, but especially hard if you had the misfortune to be young in China while Mao was growing old. But then there were always the threats where you could, in the late Sixties, travel to a "capitalist reader" to relieve the boredom or the frustration.

Having watched young men and women in excesses of viciousness, do just this. It is nice to think that a certain amount of books, healthy lubriciousness and dancing are back.

Miss Hollingworth's agreeable tone of informed neutrality breaks down only occasionally, as when she criticises the activities of western fellow travellers, whose contorted loyalties led some of them to take part in the beating up of the British Charge d'Affaires, Sir Donald Hopson, when Sir Donald invaded the British Mission in 1967, and others to justify their own incarceration by the Chinese.

This book is written to be read more widely than the ideological circle. Its main success - all too rare in the field - is that it gives a personal touch to an era. China is now engaged in a more pragmatic attempt to thrust herself into the future. According to Miss Hollingworth, the Russians were worried lest the Great Leap Forward could succeed; they may have more to worry about this time.

But by recalling the feuds and intrigues at the top, the massive policy failures and sudden reversals, she reminds us of the inherent problems of channelling the energies of a billion people, while holding the country together. It makes one cautious about prediction.



Stranded Materials at Pett Level, one of the 127 fine landscape photographs in Fay Godwin's Land, which is prefaced with an essay by John Fowles, a poem by Ted Hughes, and an introduction by Ian Jeffrey (Heinemann, £7.95).

## Where tomorrow never comes

John Bayley on an ill-fated struggle for Utopia in Brazil

The War of the End of the World. By Mario Vargas Llosa (Faber, £9.95).

HAPPY the country that has no history? Happier still, perhaps, the country which can regard its history with detachment and complacency. The romance of the past, enlightening to study and entertaining to read about. Unhappy the countries - Ireland, Germany - whose past is always present, either as a national obsession or a dirty word, and in which self respect must make out of history the propaganda of the losers.

When does the past begin? For Sir Walter Scott it was "sixty years since", the time of the "rebellion and of Waverley, his first novel. To him and other progressive Scots that time seemed like ancient history, romance, because some of the best subjects for legend and fond enquiry.

In Brazil, the land of tomorrow comes, present, past and possible future form an active and vigorous continuum, one pervaded by the sense of the past, a novel in which Scott would combine with Tolstoy, Balzac and Zola.

Vargas Llosa has in fact now written such a novel, and it is an extraordinary achievement. A Latin American novel (he was born in Peru) with an already high reputation. He fell in love, it seems, with the poor and barren north-east state of Bahia, called Bahia, and has reconstructed with sympathy and superb skill an apocalyptic struggle which took place there just before the beginning of the present century.

The federal republic which in 1888 had succeeded the old

Brazilian Empire had polarised all the social and spiritual forces at work in the enormous country. A wandering preacher, of charismatic goodness and grace, had attracted hordes of peasants, beggars, bandits, ex-slaves, and set up a holy community in a desert area. For four years the federal power were directed to overthrowing the just city, which they finally managed in this "war of the end of the world".

All this, of course, has a contemporary sound. The old and the new, rich and poor, Blancos and Colorados, Sandinistas and Contras, have always been at war in Latin America across widely frontiers. In 1897 the enlightened "Jacobins" of the Brazilian federal government were all for stamping out holy catholic socialism in the name of revolution and progress. Country priests, who today would be Christian marxists, became devoted supporters of this new Jerusalem in Bahia, whose allegiance was ultra-Catholic but whose principles were of the purest and most primitive Christianity.

True novelist as he is, Vargas Llosa has resisted the temptation to make ideological capital out of this mix-up. The novel is not a polemic, but a story with no less divided than now, and the big aristocrats and landowners found themselves making common cause with the federal "Jacobins" against the new Catholic communism.

The author gives a wonderfully vivid and impartial picture of individuals and communities, their instincts of loyalty and honour, but he manages never to seem to be adopting a

technique of impartiality - the dead hand of literary theory, as of Soviet-style realism, is kept at bay.

Warm, caring, compassionate, have become dirty words today because of the way they are used and the people who use them. A novelist as good as Vargas Llosa can make us believe in the sacrifice and love of his holy community, and leave us deeply moved by the sort that Tolstoy made for his good soldier, Karateev.

His sense of the needs of individuals thrown together in this apocalypse, his sobriety and his humour, make his novel far more absorbing to my mind, than that other masterpiece of South American history, Marquez's A Hundred Years of Solitude, whose world of fantasy, though it may sometimes have been the literary test case of Colombian history and politics, has never been something too made-up and literary about it.

Vargas Llosa has been an "experimental" novelist in his time. He found his Peruvian novel Conversations in the Cathedral hard to read for that reason - but apart from a few hitches in sequence, which scarcely disturb the engrossed reader, the epic tale of the Bahia revolt moves steadily through a vast and varied network of viewpoint and personality to its grim end.

Every character is memorable: the civilised and intelligent Baron and his wife, whose estates are taken over or destroyed; the Scottish anarchist (shades of Waverley) confident that the peasant dictatorship has arisen, but uncompromisingly just as true and fair as the bloodthirsty Cangaceiros.

bandits who have become as meek as doves in the service of the Holy City; the tough professional officers of the Brazilian army, often from humble backgrounds, confident they are the true guardians of the republic.

Looming behind the novel are the great 19th-century pioneers from southern Europe, Manzoni and Nievo from Italy, Quirós, Galdos, Alas from the Iberian peninsula. No European or American novelist could produce such a sweeping and timeless work as this today, and none could call so effortlessly on the traditions of his forebears in the business.

In spite of the violence, which is never gratuitous, there is a curious gentleness about the tone of Vargas Llosa's understanding of the odds of human intimacy, and a deep feeling for the survival of true religion. The mysterious prophet who begins all the trouble and who is called the "Counsellor" (a title Tony Benn might choose for himself on attaining supreme power) is treated by the novelist with an absolute respect which seems quite proper, no attempt is made to psychologise the suffering.

There is even a love story, a touching one with a possibly happy outcome, between the short-sighted journalist, with his fever who elicits to accompany the expeditionary force, and a peasant girl - raped by soldiers and the Scots anarchist, implacably pursued by her husband to kill her for having been raped. The novel is a masterpiece of the novel, and his wife have a more bizarre but equally touching relationship. Just as true and fair as the bloodthirsty Cangaceiros, in the depths of the Serio.

## Paying the price of security

Peter Lennon on the pattern of Ulster politics

Pig in the Middle. By Desmond Hamill (Macdonald, £12.95).

John Hume, by Barry White (Blackstaff Press, £10.95).

Ulster's Uncertain Defenders, by Sarah Nelson (Appletree Press, £12).

IF THERE is a pig-in-the-middle in Northern Ireland, in the sense of a well-intentioned presence anxious to restore order and help reconciliation, by externally the butt of intractable and delinquent forces, it is more likely to be John Hume than the Army. Although Desmond Hamill is certainly an efficient and fair-minded journalist, the method of trying to convey the reality of the Army's role in Northern Ireland, is fundamentally flawed.

Let us see how he presents the inside story of Bloody Sunday, the day in January 1972 when members of the Parachute Regiment shot down 13 unarmed people in a civil rights demonstration in Londonderry.

We learn that the RUC Chief Superintendent Frank Lagan was in fact the man who marched out of the Bogside, but brigade commander, Brigadier Pat MacLellan felt it should be contained; that initially the Army intended to deal with the march in a low-key way, but Major-General Ford picked 1 Para-

chute Regiment because they had special training, although just a week previously they had shown themselves to be "a bit out of control" at a demonstration in Magilligan. At the crucial moment the general felt he had the right "feel" for the operation, although Lagan was unhappy.

The paras fired 108 rounds, killing 13 and injuring 13. The Widgery tribunal found the Army had been fired on first. And indeed there had been a rifle shot, but being fired and another of a nail bomb. Widgery found that none of the killed or wounded had been shot while handling firearms. But private army sources told me that sympathisers had an opportunity to scrub the victims' clothes and bodies clean. Hamill gives a score more details.

Theories about that day's events cover the whole spectrum. Hamill tells us "from those who thought that Westminster and Stormont had ordered the killing of as many Catholics as possible to 'teach them a lesson' to some who thought it may have been inspired by Russia's KGB".

This is a method in which truth is supposed to be arrived at by the presentation of a mountain of facts of unequal facts given equal status. What the reader is left with is the conviction - very

convenient for politicians - that here is a puzzle incapable of solution.

This tendency to suggest exonerated. Everyone can be exonerated - including the KGB. Equally the fact (fairly well known) that the Army was, for tactical reasons, opposed to the introduction of internment without trial is worthless - or indeed misleading - if it is not coupled with the fact that when the time came in August 1971 it enforced internment indiscriminately and with unbridled zeal.

The Army is, whether it wants to be or not, a political weapon. Hamill's approach is the one by which the Army is seen as a political weapon, not a totally helpless, as a kind of well-intentioned fire brigade. It goes with the notion that the Northern Ireland problem is a security one, and not essentially a social and political problem.

John Hume would never deal in such simplicities. He is rightly described by Barry White in this extremely well-documented if a shade too admiring book as the Statesman of the Troubles. It is not sufficiently understood how Hume persistently, and almost single-handedly, by his eloquence, intelligence, and repeated refusal to be obliged both British and Southern Irish politicians to confront the fundamental problems of the Province, when they would have preferred to limit themselves to a little tinkering with matters like "security".

The sabotage of the Forum by Charles Haughey, Minister for the Environment, makes it likely that Hume will become another tragic figure in Irish politics, a great mind among pygmies. Not enough is known about the Legation, the first fire on the British Army, the last to allow its name to be besmirched; the people whose loyal, royal rallies made the Legation a powerful and ingredient. Embittered, desperately in search of identity, when you ask them what that identity is, they like the well-eyed man, do not look where they are pointing.

Sarah Nelson's book, sober and not unsympathetic to their plight, drawn from many sources, is a valuable text book of their preoccupations.

The Sea-Crossed Fisherman by Yashar Kemal (Collins, £8.95).

Ernst Neizvestny: Life and Work, by Erik Egeland (Macdonald, £29.95).

DOC SHIT! yelled Nikita Khrushchev surveying the nonconformist art submitted to the 1962 exhibition organised by the Soviet Artists Union. "Fifth Disgrace! Who is responsible for this? Who is the leader?"

## The weight of greed

Hilary Bailey reviews new fiction

The Sea-Crossed Fisherman, by Yashar Kemal (Collins, £8.95).

Crossed the Daughter, by Jane Gardam (Hamill Hamilton, £8.95).

Country Life, by Charlotte Bingham (Michael Joseph, £8.95).

The Mind-Body Problem, by Rebecca Goldstein (Deutsch, £7.95).

Flint, growing up in an old house by the sea, experienced the change encounters of youth, which do not change the structure of her life, for she always returns to the house and the sea. At the end of this Cruxie there is some recreation, a narrow strip of land uncovers itself, joining her personal island, a little, to the mainland.

There is some brilliant writing here and at the end you experience that temporary transformation which only a writer of talent can provide.

Moving on to two tales of love, snobbery and romance then seems strange. Charlotte Bingham writes in the established tradition of the English novel, on the one hand, here is Georgiana who, after two love affairs with artists, has to buckle down and rescue her social position and the old family home by making a suitable marriage. On the other, there is Patti, a former dancer married to a peer, who is failing to impress the country neighbours as she knows nothing about horses or Agas.

The best way to read this book is to ignore its loud but vague aesthetic arguments and enjoy the anecdotes and memories that pour like lava out of the permanently seething Neizvestny.

Neizvestny's tragedy is best understood as a Solzhenitsyn-like loss of context. In Russia he knew who he was, he knew what he was rebelling against. He was a revolutionary stretching the Soviet definition of what was acceptable as art. In New York he was just another heavy-metal sculptor over-fond of crucifixions, over-reliant on dry-ice effects over-exacting on the human figure.

## Revolutionary deflated

Waldemar Januszczak

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DOC SHIT! yelled Nikita Khrushchev surveying the nonconformist art submitted to the 1962 exhibition organised by the Soviet Artists Union. "Fifth Disgrace! Who is responsible for this? Who is the leader?"

It was a reply which turned figure with the I-Claudius bald and the hunched back standing at the rear of the crowd. Before anyone could advise him to consider his reply the hunchback had

roared it out: "You may be the Premier and Chairman but not here in front of my works. Here I am Premier and we shall discuss as equals."

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## Bitter sweet

by Clancy Sigal

Gather Together in My Name, by Maya Angelou (Virago, £3.50).

MAYA ANGELOU has an amazing ability to take readers into her personal maze and lead them out again feeling refreshed and even jubilant for her sadnesses.

Her autobiographical books - I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings was published here last year - are like brief blues, without condemnation or self-pity, just slices of black American life as tasty as the Creole food she used to dish up in the "greasy spoon" cafes she forever waited at. The unwavering support of her hope-addicted brother, and "my outside intellectual conceit" helped shield her from the most degrading effects of some fairly horrendous experiences.

Despite having been raped into psychotic muteness as a child, and recovering to bear an infant son at 16, Angelou was "the product of Hollywood upbringing and my own romanticism." Rare for a ghetto girl, she had graduated high school - and read books, Dostoevsky and especially Gorki - and she was trapped by her own niche, she was trapped by a tinsel fantasy created for whites not for a black "big named" unmarried mother.

"Like most young women, I wanted a man, any man, to give me a June Allyson screen-role life with a sunken living room, and cashmere-sweater sets. What she got was a succession of charming rogues who left her. They included 'L.D.', a small town California gambler who sweet-talked her into 'the life', as a whore in a crib catering to Mexican farm workers.

Although she had been a successful madame in Los Angeles, running a pair of lesbian prostitutes, she was comically hopeless as a tart. For one thing, she was always trying her high school Spanish on customers - the last thing they wanted.

"I was young and crazy as a road lizard," Angelou says. Crazy as a fox too. A born writer without a clue yet to her real identity, she was storing up an impressive panorama of low-life black experience in the tradition of James Baldwin, Zora Neale Hurston and Richard Wright.

And from the rough streets around her she was gradually picking up a style mixing an almost musical simplicity with audacious metaphor that was not artifice but a reflection of the contradictions: daring, arrogance and frequent bawdy-headedness. Papa Ford, who teaches her how to cook, had "good looks (which) were as delicate as an old man's memory, and disappointment rode his face bareback."

This slim volume opens on VE Day. The war, an economic festival for home-front blacks, is over. After trying her hand as waitress, night-club hostess, whore, and chippy, she flees the Los Angeles cops to go back "home," the tiny white supremacist town of Stamps, Arkansas. In her postwar Virginia, she meets a snooty California cosmopolitanism that scares the blacks and offends the whites, she's sent packing again by her frightened grandmother rather than risk the kind of lynching the town has known before.

In San Francisco again with her tough-talking mother and sadly sympathetic brother, she is rejected both by the telephone company and the Women's Army Corps. For the hell of it she becomes the "dancing fool" partner of a rhythm and tap showman, then the "Bobby Sock Baby" to a lying pimp and finally the adoring girlfriend of a dope hustler who refuses to turn her on because, in the end, Maya is a "nice girl."

This is a funny, high-spirited book, unscarred by bitterness, full of zest and - remarkably, in view of her brutal life with men - tolerant and loving of men.

Murder on Cue by Jane Gardam (Collins, £7.95).

Motives fester behind dressing room doors as bitchy leading lady gets lethal come-uppance before Broadway opening. Puckish little murder study follows greasypaint trail. Newcomer brings a breathless enthusiasm to tired milieu and it's almost, but not quite, catching.

## I also am of IRELAND

Frances Moffett

An affectionate and perceptive memoir of the author's childhood and her secure and untroubled world in the early twentieth century. Frances Moffett grew up in Ballinasloe and Galway in the West of Ireland; but the way of life she knew was changed forever by the turbulent events of 1916. She recalls with great insight and clarity the onset of the 'troubles' and the tragic divisions which brought conflict and hatred to what had once been a peaceful community.

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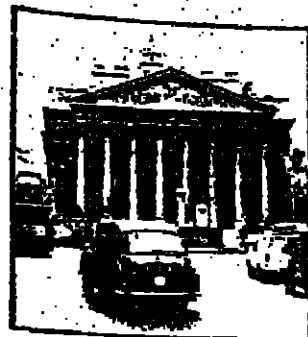
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## Companies have to take a long term view—can the City not do the same?



## NOTEBOOK

Hamish McRae

HOW DO YOU marry the very short-term preoccupation of the financial markets with the long-term objectives of industry?

Yesterday the Governor of the Bank of England, Mr. Robert Leigh-Pemberton, made an important speech to the British Institute of Management, examining the criticism of City institutions for

the short-term view they take of investments and the way this made it difficult for industry to spend as much as it would like on technological research and the development of new products.

He sketched the nature of these criticisms, frequently heard in industry, and explained the standard institutional riposte: "there is no point in buying a share in a three year time horizon if you are not going to be managing the portfolio next year."

He was careful formally not to take sides in the debate but accepted "that there is at least a degree of substance to such concerns and criticisms."

He defended the institutions from some of the more extreme criticisms by pointing to the fact that although institutional investment turnover was rising, last year insurance companies turned over only 16 per cent of their equity portfolio, and pension funds turned over 18 per cent.

This would imply that on

average they retained a share for seven and six years respectively. Turnover of investment trusts and unit trusts would be three-and-a-half years and two years; but the pension funds and insurance companies are much longer.

Further, in view of the long life of pension fund liabilities, it certainly ought to be possible for them to take a very long view. They were certainly active in venture capital, providing risk money. So he argued that it was hard to see shortcomings in either the market or the character of the big investors. But he acknowledged that the market did not like investment in new technology or sudden increases in R and D. Why?

Partly, it was because they did not explain themselves very well. But it was also, and this is an intriguing line—that companies tended to spend too little on R and D as a general policy, then suddenly had to jack up spending when they fell be-

hind. So sudden increases in R and D were in a way a response to past failure, which would explain the market's lack of sympathy.

In the end, the Governor, perhaps inevitably, suggests that both sides must look to themselves. "I do have a concern," he says, "that there are very real pressures which lead and will continue to lead, financiers to short term views." But companies must respond by selling themselves better to the financial community, explaining what they are doing and why.

So anyone looking in the Governor's speech for a slanting attack on City shortsightedness will be disappointed. But acknowledgement of the way in which the quest for investment performance cuts across the quest for industrial performance brings more into the open a fundamental difficulty of the securities market.

You have only to look to the periodic re-rating of companies, down as well as up,

to see that the market's reaction to a firm is based on a pretty arbitrary set of assumptions about the growth potential of different sectors.

Guessing when a sector is likely to be re-rated is a more probable line of approach than identifying a company which is doing really well before the rest of the pack spot it too. In other words, guessing what the market will think is more important than fundamental research on corporate performance.

And you, if there really is a weakness in the City's time horizons, the market itself ought to provide a solution. What about a "long term view" fund to be started by one of the big institutions? It would specifically set out to identify market mistakes where the market has made a short-term judgment which an advising panel of industrialists deemed was wrong.

That way, you could test the proposition that the market was falling. If the thesis

is right, it might do rather well.

## Car carnage

BECAUSE it is a wholly-owned subsidiary now, without a UK quota, we tend to forget just how important Ford is to the UK economy. Its turnover is enormous: some £34 billion, and its recent profit record rather worrying.

Yesterday's results show the fifth year in succession where profits have fallen, and there was the first operating loss since 1971. Yet this came at a time when sterling would have seemed to be fairly weak, and when UK car sales were virtually at record levels.

There are a number of detail points to make. The first is that though sterling was weak against the dollar, it remained high against the European currencies, and the market in Ford's various segments is a European one.

The fact that Jaguar could make enormous profits exporting to the US is irrelevant to Ford.

The second point is that the UK operation is really three different types of business. There is a UK assembly business, a UK engine export business, and a UK built-up car import business.

Assembly in the UK has long been fairly unprofitable, and engine exports simply do not represent a large enough proportion of a car's value to help much. Where the money has been made is in importing into the UK, and here the price was that it was last year cut into this.

The third point is that Ford, while retaining overall leadership, lost market share. It was down just over 1 per cent to 27.3 per cent in cars, though it rose in the much smaller commercial vehicles. The overall loss of share meant that in money terms domestic sales revenue was unchanged.

The motoring press has of course, further commented

on the relatively disappointing sales of the Sierra to the UK fleet market, and other problems Ford has with its image as a producer of reps cars.

But overhanging UK production problems, the modest loss of market share and so on, is a much larger issue: the continuing vast over-capacity in the European car industry. Ford draws attention to this, putting the figure at two-and-a-half million units a year. This is more than the entire UK market, and far more than the entire UK car production.

In other words were our motor industry to disappear, there would still be too much capacity in Europe. The whole European industry has to go through the same sort of adjustment as other basic industries like steel and shipbuilding have faced. To a large extent Britain has made this adjustment. Look at the way BL has been pared back. But the Continent has yet to do so. Meanwhile the carnage will continue.

## Bus privatisation pushed to back of queue

## Sell-off delay gives NBC time to improve profits

By Geoff Andrews

Government plans to privatise the National Bus Company will probably be delayed until some time in 1988 as a result of recently announced plans to take British Gas to the market.

As a result the NBC, pushed to the back of the queue by its bigger monopoly brothers, may have a free hand to establish its dominance for well over a year after local bus services become deregulated late in 1986.

The significance of the delay is that NBC, which yesterday announced a diminished working profit for 1984 of £46 million on a turnover of £764 million (compared with £48.6 million from £719 million in 1983) looks like getting a much longer period in which to shake down before it is split into anything up to 70 small private operating companies which could easily fall prey to establish private companies.

Negotiations to establish the pattern of that break-up have not officially started, although both NBC and the Department of Transport have already recruited financial advisers to push their own case. NBC is opposing a split into small companies but Mr Nicholas



Robert Brook

Ridley, the Transport Secretary, would prefer none of the options to be larger than 400 vehicles, to allow the private sector the greatest chance to penetrate the market.

The Treasury may well take the NBC view, because the City has shown itself to be much more interested in large slices of the company than the fragments. There is also a distinct possibility that if it were split into scores of tiny local

companies a number would find no buyers and could leave communities without any kind of service, an embarrassment the Government would not wish in the run-up to the next general election.

A significant factor in the drop in profitability last year was the miners' dispute, which hit not only the local services in South Wales, the East Midlands and Yorkshire, but also leisure trips.

Allied to the worries about privatisation is a continuing argument with the Government that the 50,000 employees of NBC will have no guarantee that their pensions will be protected in the new private set-up.

The chairman, Mr Robert Brook, said yesterday that he was "worried stiff" that when NBC is split into smaller units, the Government would not be able to keep the funds solvent also ceased.

"It is not possible to speculate in figures but we are very concerned."

The Government had consistently replied that there was no risk that pensions would become devalued, but if that were the case why had they refused to provide a guarantee?

## BTR to sell US tyre arm of Dunlop

By James Brichman, Chemicals Correspondent

SIR OWEN Green's industrial combine, BTR, has decided to sell off Dunlop's US tyre business, the most valuable asset of its latest acquisition.

BTR has also dispensed with Dunlop's most controversial asset, Sir Michael Edwards, for an agreed settlement "materially less" than the full multiple of Sir Michael's remaining 24-year contract.

The chairman and chief executive, Sir Michael, had been earning £156,000 a year since joining Dunlop last October. But his chances to pick up a personal fortune through the sale of the company were ended when BTR launched its successful takeover bid for the company earlier this year.

The urgent need to cut Dunlop's enormous debts clinched the £168 million US tyre disposal yesterday. The idea was first floated in March by Dunlop itself, only days before Sir Michael's fierce resistance to BTR's takeover suddenly collapsed and he agreed to Sir Owen's improved £161 million bid terms.

The US tyre business, which earned profits of £17.5 million last year, is being sold to its American managers who have received financial backing from First Boston bank. They have agreed to pay BTR \$115 million (£94 million) in cash and repay \$60 million (£48 million) worth of loans.

When the deal is signed, Dunlop's long and painful retreat from the world tyre business will be complete.

The real sterling exchange rate after adjustment for inflation is expected to drop further as UK oil production gradually declines from this year's peak. The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, told a House of Lords committee yesterday.

But he said this did not necessarily imply a drop in the nominal value of sterling. He emphasised that there was no important development would be a further devaluation in domestic unit labour costs, a remark which came shortly before official statistics confirmed a slight edging upwards in earnings in manufacturing and production industries.

The Chancellor ruled out a government inspired depreciation of sterling to increase competitiveness and remarked that the pound's nominal exchange rate against the European currencies had been "astonishingly stable."

He did, however, rule out British participation at present in the joint float of the European Monetary System, saying that the decision was finely balanced but "much more would result in greater interest rate volatility."

The Government believes that EMS membership would make sterling the object of a "directing interest rate" priority away from domestic monetary policy.

The Chancellor was speaking as more good news came in on US interest rates. Bankers Trust cut its prime rate 0.5 per cent to 10 per cent. US industrial production also fell 0.2 per cent in April compared with a 0.3 per cent March rise, confirming the slowdown in the American economy, which is taking pressure off interest rates.

## Ford boss gets £63,000 rise

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

Mr Sam Toy, the chairman of Ford UK, has been given a huge 67 per cent pay rise to accompany the American-owned car manufacturer's fifth successive year of declining profitability.

Mr Toy's salary rocketed by £63,000—an increase of over £1,200 per week—to a record £157,000 as the UK arm of the giant American, undertaking announced poor trading results for 1984.

A spokesman for Ford in Britain said the 67 per cent increase was not a basic pay rise, and reflected a bonus from the trading results for 1984.

Mr Toy's results represent the worst performance since the early 1970s.

While group turnover increased by 41 per cent to a highest-ever £3.5 billion, profit margins were whittled away by price discounting and rising costs in a highly competitive market.

As a result, Ford suffered an operating loss of £14 million, the first time the UK operation has lost money since 1971. In 1983 Ford UK earned profits of £88 million.

After adding back interest earned from cash investments, Ford earned an after-tax profit of only £50 million from £3.5 billion of sales, which was only a third of the post-tax profit

of £142 million seen in 1983, and the fifth successive year of decline.

Mr Toy and his directors blame "intense competition" in the European car and commercial vehicle industry.

Excess car production in Europe is estimated at 25 million a year, compared with a demand of 750,000 more cars a year than Britain is consuming.

But profit margins have been under pressure from heavy promotional and discounting campaigns which Ford says are "distorting" both car and commercial vehicle markets.

Ford withdrew from discounting in October, 1983 but was forced to resume the practice last year because of the intense competition.

The company retained the leadership in the UK car sales market last year, despite the loss of 93,000 vehicles because of industrial disputes.

But Ford sold 30,000 fewer cars in 1984, and the firm's share of the near-record British market was 1.2 per cent down on 1983.

The company insists it will maintain the battle to reduce costs, and the directors observe that "some further rationalisation is planned."

Ford has already cut aside £13 million from 1984's trading results to meet any further special payments, but a spokesman denied that there were any specific plans to lay off more employees. Since 1980, Ford UK has slashed its workforce by 21,000.

productivity between now and the end of the century. But most of them will be much smaller.

Mr Buchanan-Smith reiterated that the Government did not rule out the possibility that the demand for gas in the next decade might exceed the supply from the North Sea, but he said that the requirement—if it existed—could be met by a much smaller purchase than Sleipner and that there would be an opportunity to buy gas from the North Sea or from the Netherlands. By that time, he said, it was expected that there would be a surplus on the European gas market.

The department expects that between 40 and 50 new gas supplying fields will start

## Minister hints at control of privatised gas

By John Hooper, Energy Correspondent

Mr Alec Buchanan-Smith, the Energy Minister responsible for oil and gas, hinted strongly yesterday that a privatised British Gas Corporation would not be free to buy and sell as it pleased.

In answering questions from the Commons Energy Committee about possible future imports and exports, he said that the regulatory body which is to be set up to oversee the gas industry would retain the government's interest.

He pointed out that pipelines to take gas to or from British territory would need to have government authorisation

because of Britain's treaty commitments. In the context in which they were made, Mr Buchanan-Smith's remarks suggest that the present government would not allow a privatised BGC to reopen negotiations for Norway's giant Sleipner field, British Gas's plan to buy its first export contracts by the government earlier this year.

At the time, the government justified its decision on the grounds that Britain's own reserves had increased considerably, making a major purchase of gas from abroad unnecessary. In written evidence to the committee, the department for the first time yesterday gave a detailed breakdown

of the additional reserves. In 1984, while 1.3 trillion cubic feet of gas was being extracted from the North Sea, 7.5 trillion cubic feet was being added to proven and probable reserves, the department said. But of this only 2 trillion cubic feet resulted from supply fields. The remainder was accounted for by the reassessment on economic or geological grounds—of existing fields. About 80 per cent of the upward revision concerned blocks operated by Amoco, Arco, BP, Conoco, Hamilton and Shell.

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## Rolls engine deal with BA held up

By our Industrial Editor

A £100 million Rolls-Royce jet engine refurbishment contract from British Airways is being delayed while it awaits Government approval.

The contract, to improve and modernise 48 Rolls engines on 12 British Airways Boeing 747 jumbo jets, has been agreed between the two companies. But the Government is now coming under pressure from both Rolls-Royce and BA to speed up the approval to allow the state-owned airline to begin the engine refurbishment programme next April.

The Government's reluctance to sanction the deal reflects uneasiness in Whitehall about the impact of BA's huge capital spending programme on the forthcoming privatisation.

British Airways' attraction to City investors must inevitably

be dampened by the airline's likely expenditure of at least £2 billion over the next decade on replacing and modernising large chunks of its 150-strong aircraft fleet.

To ease that strain slightly, BA has elected to invest £100 million over the next few years upgrading the Rolls Royce engines on 12 of its 747 jumbos, which will allow the aircraft to fly longer distances and operate more economically.

BA is particularly anxious to begin the engine refurbishment programme because airline rivals have been buying new jumbos with improved engine capabilities. At the same time, Rolls-Royce is anxious to clinch the prestigious BA order to illustrate that refurbishment of engines is economically viable.

## Lawson warning on pound

By Peter Rodgers, City Editor

The real sterling exchange rate after adjustment for inflation is expected to drop further as UK oil production gradually declines from this year's peak.

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But he said this did not necessarily imply a drop in the nominal value of sterling. He emphasised that there was no important development would be a further devaluation in domestic unit labour costs, a remark which came shortly before official statistics confirmed a slight edging upwards in earnings in manufacturing and production industries.

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The dollar still managed a rise of one cent against sterling, to close at \$1.2827, but the pound gained against the German mark.

## Plans tabled for Montagu hive-off

By our City Editor

The Samuel Montagu investment management team has tabled proposals for having the bank split into two companies, with 40 per cent stake to be held by the US insurance group Aetna Life and the balance by City investors and the management.

The idea of dividing Montagu Investment Management into a new investment bank.

The MIM chief is Mr David Stevens, who is also chairman of United Newspapers. He flew to the US last week to put his proposal to Aetna.

Midland Bank, which owns 60 per cent of merchant banker Samuel Montagu, appears ready to bless either proposal in order to clear the way for Midland to take full control of the merchant banking and securities side of Samuel Montagu.

Suggestions from a Midland camp that it would take full control of the entire bank, including the insurance and property side, have nothing but did serve to put expressed interest.

## Kunick link-up

By Geoffrey Gibbs

Kunick Leisure Group, the broadly-based concern built up by former holiday camps King Sir Fred Puntin and the Hull City football club, has announced a deal it has to find City finance, possibly from merchant banks but more likely from investment trusts.

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## Pay still ahead of prices

By our City Staff

Average earnings continued well ahead of price rises in March, according to the Department of Employment, which also detected an increased growth of earnings in production and manufacturing industries compared with February.

Average earnings grew 9.1 per cent in the year to March compared with 7 per cent in the year to February, but after adjusting for the miners' strike and other irregularities the underlying annual rate

## Surge in exports

By Geoffrey Gibbs

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## TSB's chip off the new block

By Peter Large, Technology Correspondent

The building is very Milton Keynesish, designed in the low-level, high-tech fashion—stern exterior encircling a quadrangle of rock garden and fountain. It cost £7 million. The reason for its existence is a small collection of grey boxes, and they cost £3 million.

That reminder that the traditional big computer centre is still alive and thriving was opened yesterday by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, Mr Ian Stewart. From July, it will run the southern operations of the Trustee Savings Bank from Milton Keynes, duplicating and work-

ing in tandem with the TSB's northern computer centre at Wythenshawe, Manchester.

The only noticeable difference from the antiseptic computer centres of old is size. In computer terms it needs only a quarter of the space that would have been needed five years ago. But the bulky surrounding requirements for power supplies, refrigeration, and air-conditioning are unchanged.

The actual computer is contained in two inter-working boxes, 5ft by 3ft. It can cope with 9.5 million instructions every second, handling the business from hundreds of terminals in TSB offices around

the country at a peak hour rate of 200 customers' transactions per second. The heat it dissipates in its water-cooled frenzy is recycled to warm the building.

It is surrounded by its memory—disk cabinets holding customer records amounting to the equivalent of more than five billion words.

The system is designed to manage the instant transactions of home banking as well. But at first the only sign to the customer using an automatic cash dispenser that he or she is communicating with a computer hundreds of miles away will be the screen message "please wait a second"

while the messages travel up and down the line.

The key communication between Manchester and Milton Keynes is supplied by Mercury, British Telecom's new competitor using fibre-optic cables laid alongside the rail tracks. Mr Harry Read, TSB's technology manager said that Mercury was not only cheaper, but BT could not guarantee the transmission speeds required in the time (BT would not comment on that last night).

The computer comes from Sperry, and all the major equipment around it is American, too. Mr Read said: "Our experience with UK industry has not been all that encouraging."

Animals arriving at slaughter houses should be inspected for sickness or excessive dirt before killing, a Ministry of Agriculture report recommended yesterday. At present the only mandatory inspection is carried out post-mortem. Sick or dirty animals could be separated from healthy stock and slaughtered separately if compulsory inspection were introduced, the report suggests, with resulting improvements in both hygiene and animal welfare levels.

THE PRESIDENT of the Cameroon Republic Mr Paul Biya, said in London yesterday that his government would welcome a trade mission from Britain, as a practical way to open a greater market for British exports. He made clear that he had put this to Mrs Thatcher.



## Not such a black day for white goods makers

Maggie Brown looks at the problems facing Britain's electrical appliance firms

THIS should have been a symbolic year for British companies making electrical home appliances. For during 1985 the sector was due to reach one of those rare, and crucial, cross-over periods. The Brits were successfully fighting back.

The long-standing growth in market share being gained by importers since the '60s was about to go into reverse. The 50 or so UK manufacturers producing home electrical goods worth £1.2 billion a year were due to have started clawing back market share, after several satisfying years of watching a slow-down in the importers' market.

This good news was expected because during 1984 five separate schemes to invest in micro-wave oven production in Britain were announced. Microwaves are Britain's fastest growing appliance sector: over one million were sold last year, and the UK is the world's third largest market after the US and Japan.

Japan's Sharp Corporation cemented this trend by substituting UK-made supplies for imports on Tuesday by announcing its go-it-alone microwave plant in Wrexham, without a UK partner. Britain, thanks to potentially lower manufacturing costs than France, Germany and Italy, is clearly being picked as a European supply base.

But it was not to be. The blow was delivered also on Tuesday, by the Dutch multinational, Philips, which is in a sober mood of European-wide retrenchment.

It announced it was ending washing machine and tumble dryer manufacture in Britain, leaving the production field to local market leaders and producers Hotpoint and Hoover followed by TI Creda and the newly rescued and weakest of the four, Servis.

The Philips plant—a relatively modern greenfield one in Halifax, managed by a modest-sized workforce of 350—largely serviced Philips' poor 6 per cent UK market share of automatic washing machines. These in future will come all the way from Naples, while the dryers will arrive in Britain probably from a recently acquired West German factory.

According to pan-European Philips, clearly rattled by the dominant appliance grouping created by the merger of Sweden's Electrolux and Italy's Zanussi it makes one of the extra transport costs of shipping what are essentially

large metal appliances—encasing empty space—hundreds of miles, rather than operate on a small scale.

To make a profit, by multinational standards, Philips estimated that a plant would have to be turning out three to five times more products than that of Halifax.

So, at a stroke, Philips decision to import its brands, rather than make them in Britain, puts paid to hopes of stemming overall imports.

The move will mean that imported washing machines will account for 50 per cent of the UK market—from the current 43 per cent—breaching another crucial watershed, and will raise the importers' share of the total appliance market to



Martin Naughton: 'management has betrayed the workforce'

over 40 per cent again, compared with 39 per cent last year.

But not all the news is grim. If Philips' marketing efforts are allowed to be blunted, then hungry UK producers will launch their attacks. After all, it removes excess local capacity, they argue.

Hoover is in the middle of trying to cut up to 500 jobs from its 2,200 workforce at the factory in Merthyr Tydfil in order to reap the benefits of a £10 million mechanisation investment programme.

And Mr Denis Norton, managing director of Servis's new owners, the A. J. Gooding Group, said yesterday the Darlington works was now making 150,000 washing machines a year (8 per cent of the market), and hungry for more. It too is involved in an investment programme

backed by a government loan.

White goods have been hit worst, because of the dominant European competition. But it has made the industry, at best, lean, hungry and dangerous. British-made electrical goods, especially in smaller, specialist niches, do start looking competitive, when manufacturing costs are compared with abroad.

The tragedy, of course is that the sector has displayed little appetite for exports, despite opportunities presented by sterling's weakness.

But there are also other clear signs of optimism. Mr Michael Montague's Valor gas cooker company has recently moved swiftly to diversify into electrical appliances by buying up the Dreamland electric blanket company. It is looking for new Dreamland products to take up spare factory capacity.

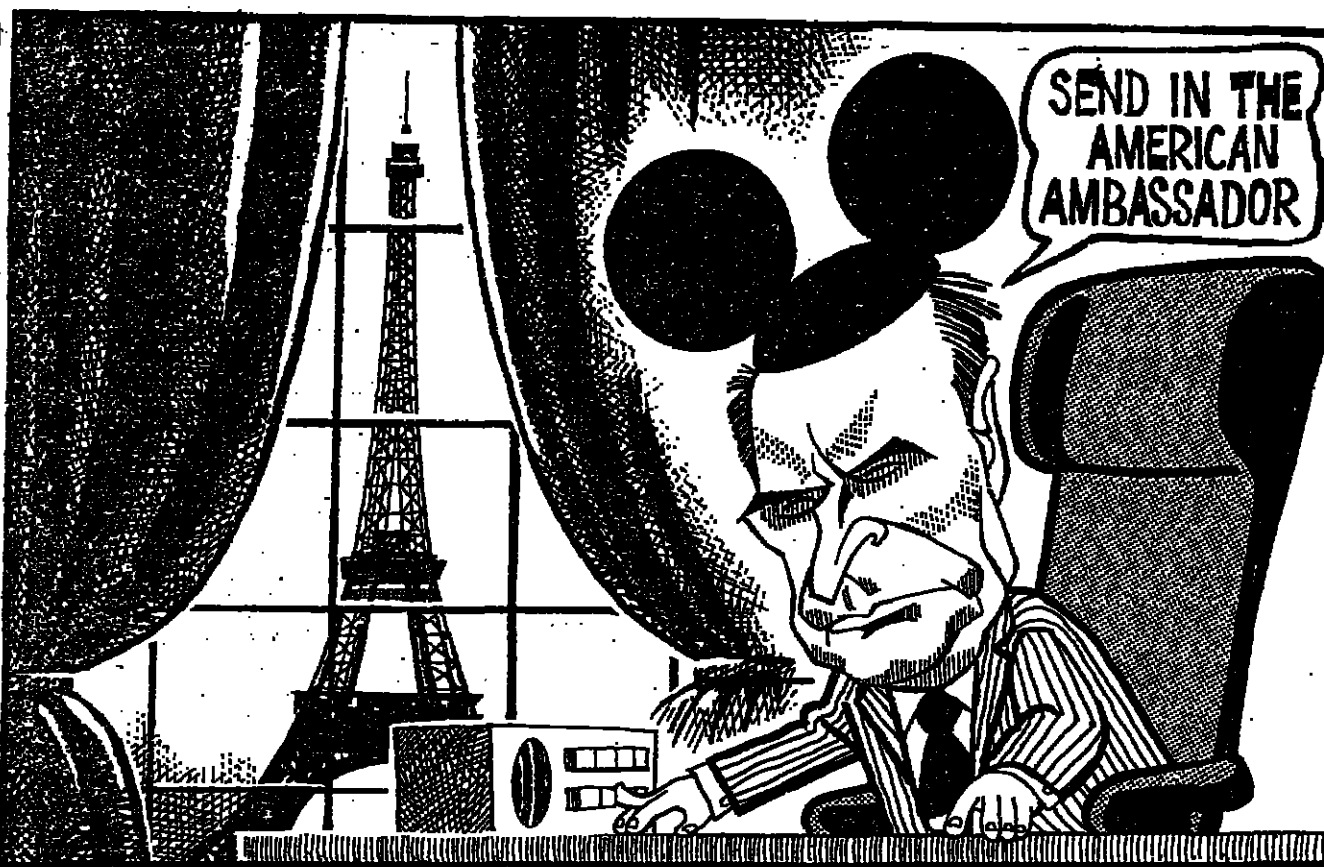
And, in the last 12 years, Mr Martin Naughton has expanded his Glen Dimplex firm, partly through strategic acquisitions from receiver-ship, into a £100 million appliance operation. Last week he scored a major coup by adding the Murphy Richards company—with its wonderful brand name and 40 per cent estimated UK market share of irons and toasters—to his profitable private enterprise.

And at his right hand has been a strong industrial designer, plus central team, continually considering the actual product on offer to customers. In yet another appliance company, BSR's Swan Housewares, this reviving concentration on stylish design has paid off.

So, the conclusion must be that Philips' decision, dictated by his pan-European plans, does not spell disaster, though it does cause an unhappy hiccup in national statistics in what should have been a watershed year.

But neither does it mean that Britain's white goods manufacturers, largely content to supply national needs can sleep easy: they probably are too small. And beneath all those sales of cookers, fridges and washing machines, there are many fairly profitable and happy manufacturers of electric kettles, toasters and the like.

One final point: all electrical appliances are potentially devices for carrying micro-processor controls and other up-market additions. The sector may not be the dying duckling it is usually portrayed as.



Drawing by Peter Clarke

## Snow White and the two giants

FIERCE rivalry between France and Spain to provide a \$2 billion European home for such characters as Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck, has intensified with an announcement that the location of a European Disneyland will be revealed in August.

Encouraged by the success of its first foreign Fantasy Park—a Japanese Disneyland in Tokyo—Los Angeles-based Walt Disney Productions last year announced it would seek a West European site for a similar venture.

Disney executives let it be known that such considerations as adequate sunshine and an already developed tourism infrastructure meant that the only serious contenders would be France or Spain.

The governments of both countries stepped in with offers of financial support, with Spain offering to put up 26 per cent of the total cost while France held out the prospect of "considerably more."

The planned park will be modelled on the original Disney World opened in the 1950s in the Los Angeles suburb of Anaheim. Both the Spanish and the French hope it will have the same effect on its surrounding area as two other Disney complexes, Disney World and Epcot, which have transformed the economy of Central Florida.

The Disney company has been offered a site at Marne-la-Vallée, in the Paris suburbs, and two in Spain, one near Alicante on the central Mediterranean coast, and the

other near the city of Barcelona.

So intense is the rivalry for the project that the Spanish side is believed to have argued that France's reputation for rudeness towards foreign visitors could prevent implementation of the strict standards of courtesy Disney requires of its employees.

The Spanish authorities have calculated that the project could create as many as 75,000 jobs between those involved in building the complex and working in it, and from the spin-off for surrounding hotels. This is a major consideration in a country which suffers from one of the highest unemployment rates in Europe.

The director general of

promotion for the Spanish Tourist Office, Mr Ignacio Vasall, said on return from Los Angeles last weekend that Disney executives had promised a final decision on the location of the European Disneyland in August. The only obstacle to Spain's candidacy was the sharp fall in tourism outside the peak summer months.

He declined to comment on claims by local politicians that the Alicante site had already been chosen apparently for fear of sparking off a wave of land speculation in the area. Of the \$2 billion Disney executives have estimated as the cost of the project, about half would be raised from European government and private investors.

## China's new tax on foreign companies

CHINA yesterday announced an unexpected tax on foreign firms retroactive to January 1 in what some observers saw as evidence that the country's hard currency reserves are down and the government needs cash.

The 15 per cent "enterprise income tax" will be levied on foreign offices that earn money from services and consultation, reports in the state-run press said. They also said a 5 per cent "industrial and commercial tax" would be levied on all foreign Hong Kong and Macao enterprises starting from June 1.

Overseas business representatives and Western diplomats linked the retroactive tax to a recent tightening on Chinese spending, delays on loan repayments, and sudden cancellations of foreign business deals.

"This appears to be part of a pattern to stretch out their payments," one diplomat said. "It's just another form of generation of revenue, another little place to get some money."

US business sources said that at least five American firms had complained in the last two months about Chinese delays in repaying debts, a sign that Peking has a cash-flow problem. A recent shake-up in China's banking system hierarchy following a wave of excess bonus-giving, lending and spending, has led to a significant tightening on spending of foreign currency. The state councillor, Mr Chen Muhua, newly appointed director of the People's Bank of China, is known as a conservative spender.—AP.

# Ultramar

FIRST QUARTER 1985

## GOOD START TO 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

- Record first quarter net profit of £46.4 million.
- Cash flow at quarterly all time high of £69.2 million.
- Oil and gas production exceeds 100,000 barrels per day of oil equivalent.
- Improved profitability from downstream operations in Eastern Canada and the UK, and the shipping division.
- Delivery taken of two 76,000 ton oil-bulk-ore carriers.
- Can. \$250 million refinancing successfully completed.
- Good results expected for the remainder of 1985.

### SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL RESULTS

	First Quarter 1985 £ million	First Quarter 1984 £ million	Year 1984 £ million
Turnover (Sales revenue)	820.4	784.3	3,260.4
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	103.6	59.4	284.9
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation	46.4	32.3	127.6
Cash flow from operations	69.2	54.5	215.4
Capital expenditures	51.3	85.4	287.7

### OPERATING RESULTS

	First Quarter 1985	First Quarter 1984	Year 1984
Sales of oil (barrels per day)	308,400	352,600	291,200
Oil refined (barrels per day)	75,600	110,300	104,000
Oil produced (barrels per day)	31,400	23,100	26,400
Gas produced (thousands of cubic feet per day)	432,200	259,100	340,000
Gross wells drilled	60	60	315
Oil and gas wells completed (in which the Group has varying interests)	33	46	201

## LONDON AND NORTHERN RECORD PROFITS IN 1984

- Pre-tax profits £18.3m (1983—£15.5m)
- Total dividend 4.9p (1983—4.5p)
- Earnings per share 12.3p (1983—11.8p)
- Major acquisition of Rockville Crushed Stone Inc. in USA in May 1985
- Satisfactory start to 1985 to which Rockville expected to make material contribution

The above comprises an abridged financial statement subject to audit. The annual accounts will be posted to shareholders by 10th June 1985 and copies will be obtainable from the Company at Essex Hall, Essex Street, London WC2R 3JD

**LONDON AND NORTHERN**  
Essex Hall, Essex Street, London WC2R 3JD. Tel: 01-836 9261

## DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND CHEMICAL AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

NATIONAL OIL WELL COMPANY (ENTREPRISE NATIONALE DES TRAVAUX AUX Puits)

## NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CALL TO TENDER No 9151 AY/DIV

The National Oil Well Company (ENTP) is launching a National and International Call To Tender for the supply of:

### FIRE EXTINGUISHERS — DIFFERENT CAPACITIES

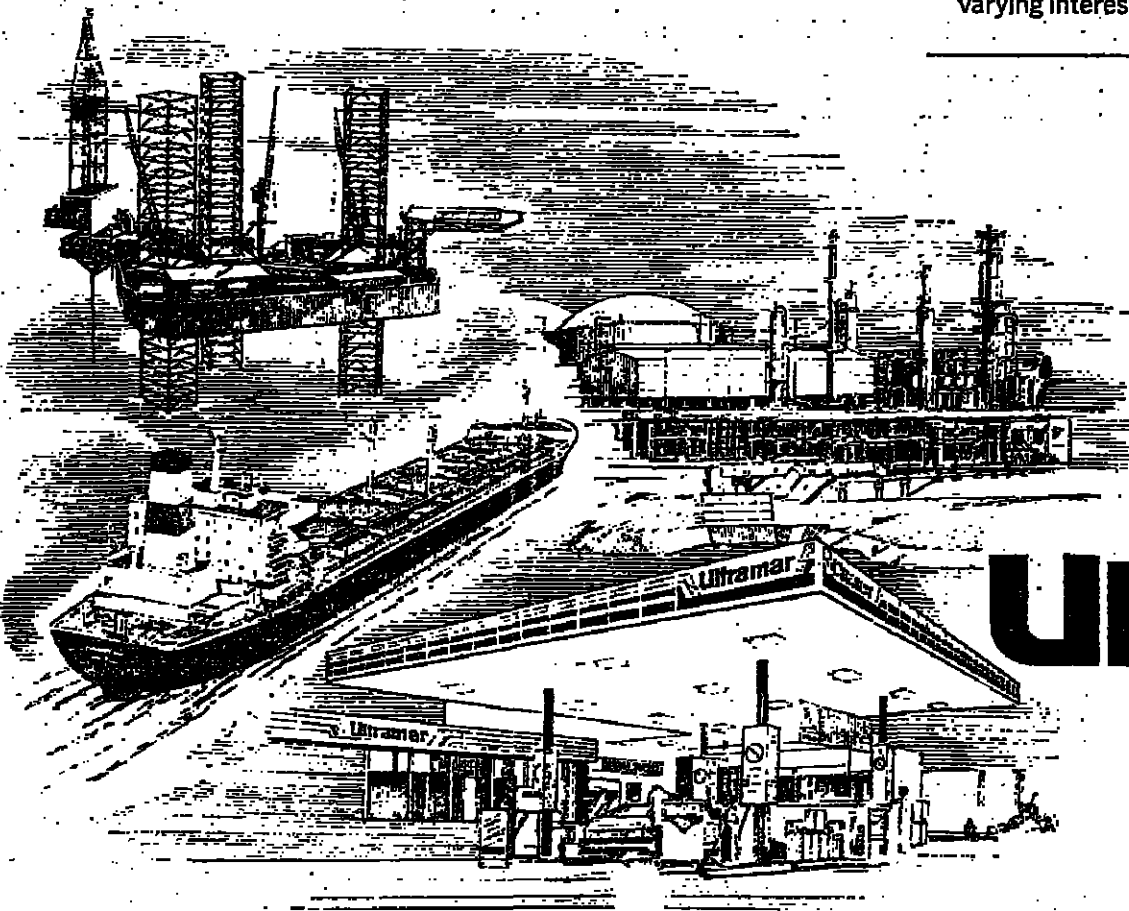
This invitation to Tender is addressed solely to production companies and amalgamations, company representatives and other intermediaries being excluded, in accordance with the provisions of Law No 78-02 of 11th February, 1978, concerning the State Monopoly of Foreign Trade.

Companies interested in this Invitation to Tender may obtain specifications on payment of 400 Algerian Dinars, from the following address: Entreprise Nationale des Travaux aux Puits, Direction des Approvisionnements, 16 Route de Mettah, Oued Smar, El-Harrach, Alger, Algeria — as from the publication date of this Notice.

Tenders drawn up in five (5) copies, should be sent in double sealed and registered packet, to The Secretariat of the Direction Approvisionnements at the above address.

The outer envelope must be anonymous, carrying no marking except the endorsement "Appel d'Offres National et International No 9151 AY/DIV Confidentiel — a ne pas Ouvrir".

Tenders must arrive by noon on Saturday, 29th June, 1985, at the latest. The Option Period shall be 180 days as from the closing date of this Invitation to Tender.



# Ultramar

Morgan House, 1 Angel Court  
London EC2R 7AU

For a copy of the Report for the First Quarter 1985 please write to the Company Secretary at the above address.



D R O W C I M A N Y D A  
P E R C E P T I V E O P  
D T I R U O G I R X H C  
E I J D N O S T E C O O  
S F L E X I B I L I T Y  
A O P J O U A I E T H H  
B R G N I V L O V E R T  
D P A R N C A M A M U L  
A T T O A S N M N E S A  
O E M A G I C L T N T E  
R G E L P O E P B T R H  
B D W O R L D W I D E I

There are 17 key words in this puzzle that sum up BTR's management philosophy. The results are more easily found in our 1984 Report and Accounts. Send for a copy.

BTR PLC, SILVERTOWN HOUSE, VINCENT SQUARE, LONDON SW1P 2PL 01-834 3848.

ANSWERS: DYNAMIC/PERCEPTIVE/RIGOUR/FLEXIBILITY/EVOLVING/MAAGIC/PEOPLE/WORLDWIDE/BOLD/VISION/  
BROAD BASED/PROFIT/BALANCED/RELEVANT/EXOTIC/MENT/THRUST/HEALTHY

## When there are cries of rhubarb, foreign fruits might be sweeter



### INVESTMENT

Robin Stoddart

**SUSTAINABLE** economic growth is being achieved by most countries at present. Doubts about whether it will be sustained have not yet upset many investors either on the real or stock market investment scene. Shortcomings in the area of purely financial, if less than pristine, control and management have not destroyed—and are now encouraging—hopes that the trend of interest rates is gently lower.

Amid all the welter of more-than-usually meaningless statistics, most notably from the United States, which have only shrouded the locomotive in steam, Britain is being portrayed as a pillar of rectitude and above-average performance.

In the absence of any worthwhile proposals from the Bonn summit, confidence generation in industry has something to be said for it, though actions speak louder. Cries of rhubarb from within the Tory ranks may be useful if, along with higher inflation, they stop the pound from rising too far.

While the prospects for continued economic growth in the US are most likely improving again and nearly all countries will benefit from lower oil prices, the impending period of declining or reversing from the North Sea is bound to be fairly taxing for Britain.

It is the first reversal of the bonanza that has been the outstanding feature of the economy for the last nine years, at least on the positive side. Optimism about export prospects for other products is well-based, but

that is not enough for balanced expansion.

In the last three years, the most noticeable development on the domestic scene has been the rise in consumer spending, which still goes on as the statistics for an unusually cold spring would seem to confirm. Since Government spending, too, has barely levelled off as yet, the rise in average living standards is no mystery. Unemployment and imports have risen a lot faster than incomes most years, but in the hard world of economic aggregates the national cake has certainly increased.

Redistribution on a scale that is unprecedented in modern times in a democracy, except perhaps in the worst months of the great depression, has been going on for more than four years now and shows little sign of easing back as the privatisation programme gathers pace.

There are many more people with spare capital around now, as there need to be when payments for the assets being bought from the state are rising into the billions. The ratio of rising numbers in the capitalist v.

lower dollar exchange rate and on an economic growth rate temporarily a little below average, perhaps, the import boom into the US must be near to levelling out.

Even if growth resumes at an annual rate above 3 per cent, which is probable, the US cannot be expected to undergo de-industrialisation and rising unemployment such as Britain has experienced during the North Sea era.

In any case, the combination of economic pause and financial concern generated by the failure of many smaller deposit-takers has put many dollar interest rates or returns on a downward tack. The President's acceptance of a more pressing need to curb the budget deficit has also encouraged hopes of a stable outlook while industry adjusts to Far Eastern and other competition and the dollar finds a more reasonable level.

No doubt the rising incidence of pay cuts helps, too, particularly if it keeps unemployment down at one-in-seven, or not much more than half the rate in Britain and many other European countries. Average incomes are still nearly twice as high.

The influence of Wall Street on London and other centres has reassured itself immediately upon its recovery. Lower interest rates are the prime mover, but it is, for example, hard to see how British Telecom and British Aerospace could attain new peaks without American Telephone and Telegraph and Boeing providing some back-up. An uncertain dollar might delay comparison, but could not forestall switching indefinitely.

In a bull market the value placed on British Aerospace will be far higher than when recession is depressing investors in all except the most basic or counter-cyclical areas. The present share price is nearly three times that at which the government made its initial sale just over four years ago. But that is by no means exceptional in the rush to privatise.

The risks are, however, much greater than in more down-to-earth pursuits. Valued in the same ratio to turnover as Boeing, BAe

must be riding for a fall. The biggest change over the three years is that the group is further through its best contracts for military aircraft, and civil aircraft, too, are for governments to finance.

London share prices generally have been carried to new peaks in the excitement of takeover activity and peak profit announcements and because far more cash and credit than ever before is flooding through the system. Profits look set to slow down

**By far the strongest share price movements have been seen in the markets of the weakest currencies**

quite sharply before many months have passed.

This would not be so obvious if the pound fell back again. In that case, inflation would become a good deal more serious even than the latest poor monthly figures indicate. The only way that the biggest profit earners, the oil companies, could move on to new peaks is through yet more petrol price increases that would spark off a whole inflationary round.

By far the strongest share price movements have been seen in the markets of the weakest currencies, though the benefits of devaluation are obviously not immediately evident to existing foreign investors. The Australian and Italian markets have lifted off largely for this reason.

The means of participating in these smaller markets at limited risk are rather slight as the number of investment or unit trusts with sizeable stakes can be counted on the fingers of one hand. When stock markets and the pound are both strong, but going liquid does not yet seem a fruitful course, the broad spread by the larger or wider international investment trusts has a lot to commend it and from Alliance to US debenture they are appreciably below both their peaks and the underlying value of investments.

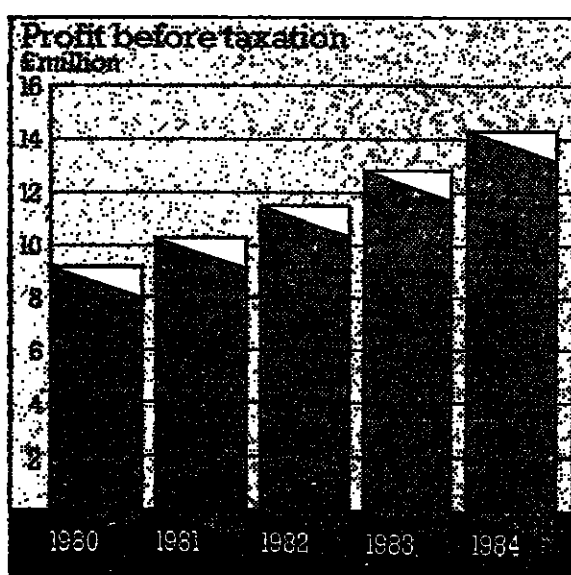
# Matthew Hall

Public Limited Company

INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING DESIGNERS AND CONTRACTORS

## Steady growth maintained

- ☐ Further increase in pre-tax profit—up 10 per cent.
- ☐ Dividend for the year increased by 12½ per cent and 1-for-1 scrip issue proposed.
- ☐ Good results in both the UK and Australia from the mechanical and electrical sector despite keen margins.
- ☐ Oil, gas and chemical sector performed well in the UK and Holland but results from the USA remain disappointing.
- ☐ UK mining operations affected by the miners' strike, whilst the American mining market still remains depressed.
- ☐ Group order book sound and a reasonable year in 1985 anticipated.



### Summary of Results

	1984 £'000	1983 £'000
Turnover	382,769	361,165
Value Added	201,439	187,195
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	14,245	12,862
Profit attributable to shareholders	6,914	3,903
Shareholders' funds	48,662	42,936
Dividends per share	7.875p	7.0p
Earnings per share	20.23p	16.91p

The Summary of Results shown above is an abridged version of the audited accounts which have been, and will be, filed with the Registrar of Companies. The Auditors' reports are unqualified.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in London on Friday, 7th June, 1985. Copies of the Annual Report 1984, containing the Chairman's Statement in full and a Review of the Year, may be obtained from the Secretary, Matthew Hall PLC, Matthew Hall House, 7 Baker Street, London W1M 1AB. Telephone: 01-935 9384. Telex: 291441.

## Commercial Union 3 MONTHS REVIEW to 31 March 1985

An unaudited operating loss before taxation of £17.5m was incurred for the 3 months ended 31 March 1985. There was a substantial improvement in results in the United Kingdom but, as expected, experience in the United States continued to be poor.

The operating result before taxation achieved outside the United States was a profit of £14.2m. In the United States a loss of £31.7m was sustained.

Non-life premium income reduced by 13% in underlying terms. This reflects the action taken last year to cancel unprofitable business in the United States and to reduce the scale of our operations there.

Investment income increased by 8%, but in underlying terms showed a marginal reduction.

Life profits in all territories showed an excellent underlying growth.

In the United States non-life premium income reduced in all sectors as planned and by 28% overall. The operating result is still adversely affected by inadequate premium rates. However, increased rates are being obtained on both personal and commercial business and this should benefit results later in the year. As expected, despite a reduction in expenses of 25%, the lower premium income caused the expense ratio to rise to 32.8% (1984 31.0%). The statutory operating ratio was 126.1 (1984 114.8% and for the full year 126.8%).

In the United Kingdom there was a marked improvement in the operating result which benefited from improved claims experience, particularly in the industrial fire account, and a lower level of weather related claims.

The Netherlands continued to maintain its high level of operating profits despite competitive market conditions which restricted premium growth to less than 1%.

In Canada non-life premium income was reduced further by strong competition, particularly in personal lines because of our refusal to lower underwriting standards. In these circumstances the operating profit is a good achievement.

In the Rest of the World, excluding associated companies, there was steady growth in premium income and a satisfactory underlying increase in operating profits.

	3 months 1985 Estimate	3 months 1984 Estimate	Year 1984 Actual
Premium income			
Life	£m	£m	£m
Non-life	174.6	146.3	495.6
Total	520.1	544.4	2,159.5
	694.7	690.7	2,655.1
Investment income net of			
loan interest	64.9	59.8	275.9
Underwriting result	(99.9)	(84.1)	(439.4)
Life profits	16.7	14.2	77.9
Associated companies' earnings	0.8	1.7	12.8
Operating loss before taxation	(17.5)	(8.4)	(72.8)
Taxation and minorities	(4.2)	(0.9)	(15.5)
Operating loss	(21.7)	(9.3)	(88.3)
Realised investment gains	0.6	7.1	53.4
Loss attributable to shareholders	(21.1)	(2.2)	(34.9)
Earnings per share			
Operating loss	(5.26p)	(2.25p)	(21.44p)
Realised investment gains	0.15p	1.72p	12.95p
	(5.11p)	(0.53p)	(8.49p)
Shareholders' funds	£1,005m	£1,045m	£1,073m
Operating loss before taxation	£m	£m	£m
United States	(31.7)	(10.3)	(146.9)
United Kingdom	3.0	(10.5)	12.4
Netherlands	8.7	8.8	42.0
Canada	1.0	1.9	6.4
Rest of the World	1.5	1.7	10.4
	(17.5)	(8.4)	(72.8)
Rates of exchange			
United States	\$1.23	\$1.45	\$1.16
Netherlands	Fls4.32	Fls4.25	Fls4.13
Canada	\$1.68	\$1.84	\$1.54



**Commercial Union**  
Assurance Company plc
















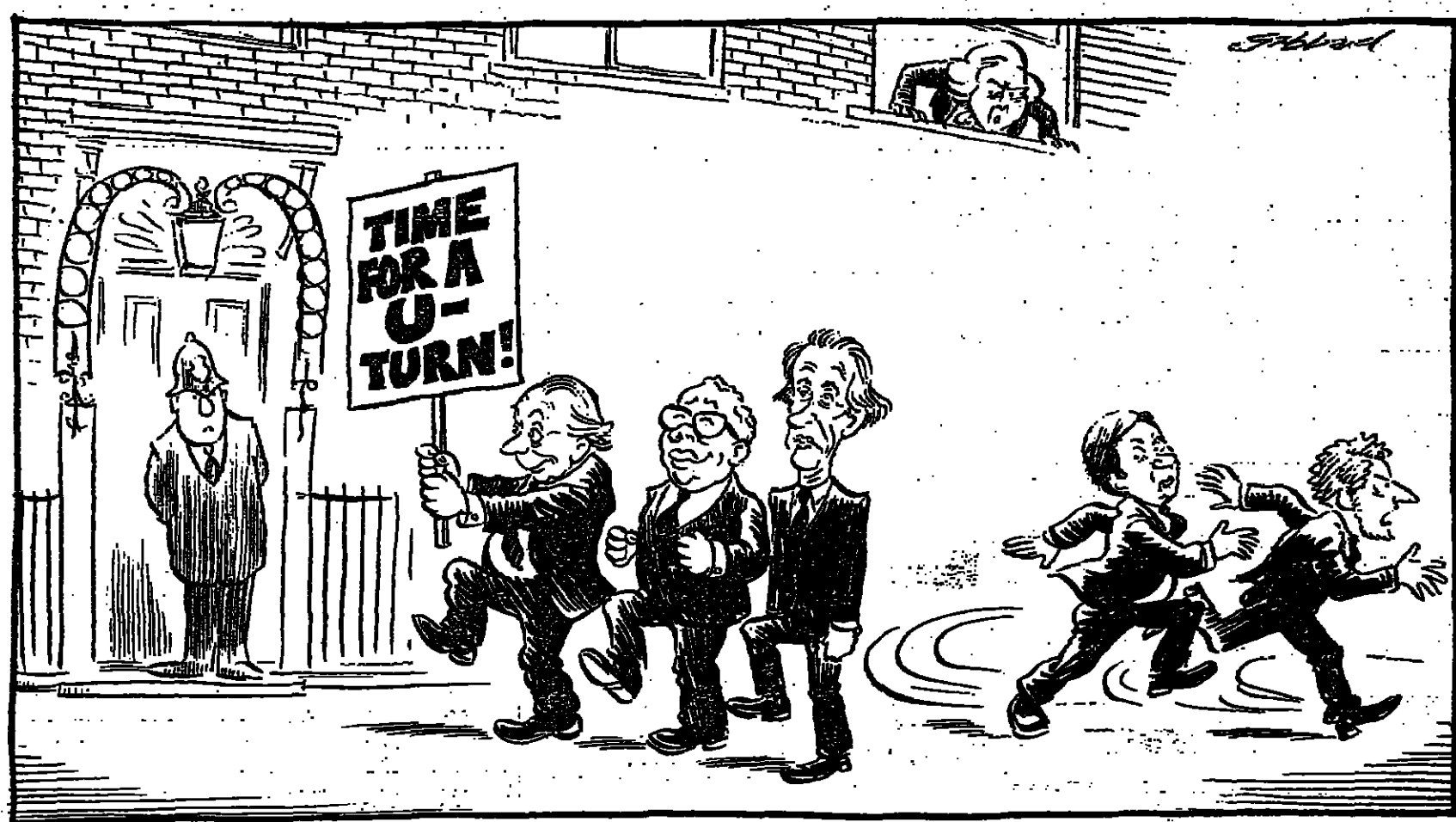
<b>BBC-1</b> 6 00 am Ceefax AM. 6 50 Breakfast Time. 9 20 Pages from Ceefax. 10 30 Play School. 10 55 Cricket: Benson & Hedges Cup. 1 20 pm News Afternoon. 1 37 Regional News. 1 40 Camberwick Green. 1 55 Cricket. 3 53 Regional News (except London and Scotland). 3 55 Mop and Smiff. 4 10 Ivor the Engine. 4 15 Jigsaw. 4 30 Bananaman. 4 45 Dogan and the Three Musketeers. 4 55 John Craven's Newsworld. 5 30 Blue Peter. Ceefax sub-titles. 5 35 Dr Kildare. 6 00 NEWS: weather. 6 35 REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES. 7 00 EASTENDERS: Ceefax sub-titles. 7 30 TOMORROW'S WORLD. More ideas and inventions from the frontiers of science and technology. 7 55 TOP OF THE POPS introduced by Peter Powell and Gary Davies.  Lenny Henry 8 30 THE Lenny Henry Show. Frank Bruno weighs in to land Lenny a hand with a boxing sketch in this latest comedy repeat, with more support from UB40, Rik Mayall. 9 00 NEWS: weather. News. 9 25 MATT HOUSTON: Marilyn. She being the person for whom a murder victim expresses terminal concern - a strangely familiar blonde beauty, too, as our tycoon discovers when he sets out to probe the killing of one of his top underlings. Lee Horsley is the well heeled gunshow, with Katie Labourette as the mystery woman. 10 15 QUESTION TIME. Pundits at the Green-wood Theatre include Edward du Cann MP, Sir Peter Parker and Baroness Seear, as Donald MacCormick chairs another topical debate. 11 15 THE LEARNING MACHINE. 4-Which Way To A Job? Introducing micros into schools seemed like the ideal way of fitting youngsters for the new job markets, but are expectations being fulfilled? Tim O'Shea continues his investigation of computers in education, hearing conflicting views about the value of the new studies. 11 40 Weather: close. Wales: 6 15-6 30 am Ceefax. 6 35-7 00 Dr Kildare. 7 30-8 00 Week in Week out. Northern Ireland: 7 30-8 00 am Ceefax. 7 30-8 00 Dr Kildare. 7 30-8 00 Week in Week out. 8 00-8 30 News: weather: close.	<b>BBC-2</b> 6 20-7 20 am Open University. 9 00 Pages from Ceefax. 9 30 Daytime on Two: Appuntamento in Italia. 9 55 Tont Compri. 10 12 Science Workshop. 10 34-10 55 Scene: 11 5 Near and Far. 11 25 Pages from Ceefax. 2 0 pm You and Me. 2 15 Music Time. 2 35 Pages from Ceefax. 3 55 Cricket. 7 25 NEWS with sub-titles; weather. 7 30 THE MAGIC PAINTER. Another showing for a charming animated film from China. 7 50 GLOBAL REPORT: Nada. Many Western cameras have recorded the squalor and hardship of life in South American shanty towns, but this first in a new series of Global Report films, all made in the same way, is unusual in the involvement of the people themselves in the film making. The result is a drama based on the day-to-day survival of the folk of the barrios ringing Bogota, Colombia, approved by collective decision and acted out by them in close collaboration with writer Barry Collins and director David Wheatley. The story they tell is that of a kind of Colombian Everywoman: the penniless, homeless Nada, seeking her missing children as well as a job and a roof, in a community where pride and mutual help flourish amid poverty and constant struggle. 9 00 LEAVING. Susan Hampshire. Keith Barron as the ex-spouses of Carla Lane's post-divorce comedy, now arranging a get-together dinner to provide continuity for the kids, and wishing they hadn't. 9 30 ALEC CLIFTON-TAYLOR'S ENGLISH TOWNS. 1: Chichester, Sussex. A fourth series of the light and popular English Towns was at the planning stage when Alec Clifton-Taylor died last month, and as a tribute to the knowledgeable enthusiast who did so much to make everyday architecture accessible, BBC-2 is repeating all 18 of the existing programmes. We begin with the first, made seven years ago, in which our guide quickly establishes his delight in building materials and his eye for a familiar but rarely noticed detail. Ceefax sub-titles. 10 00 CRICKET: Benson and Hedges Cup. Peter West with highlights of one of today's zonal matches in the 55-over-a-side tourney. 10 50 NEWSNIGHT. 11 35 Weatherview. 11 40 Weekend Outlook. 11 45 Open University. 12 40 Close. N. Ireland: 11 30-11 50 am Ulster in Focus.	<b>ITV London</b> 6 15 am Good Morning Britain. 9 25 Headlines; Schools. 9 30 Middle English. 9 45 Junior Maths. 10 6 Seeing and Doing. 10 23 Gather Round. 10 43 Living and Growing. 11 2 Let's Go Maths. 11 14 Alive and Kicking. 11 34 Animals in Action. 11 55 Rub a Dub Dub. 12 0 Portables. 12 10 pm Mooncat. 12 20 The Sullivan. 1 0 News. 1 20 Thames News. 1 30 Falcon Crest. 2 25 Home Cookery Club. 2 30 Play It Again. 3 0 Take the High Road. 3 25 News. Headlines. 3 30 Sons and Daughters. 4 0 Portables. 4 15 Crystal. Tips and Alistair. 4 20 Wonders in Letterland. 4 45 First Post. 5 15 Thames Sport. 5 45 NEWS: weather. 6 00 THAMES NEWS. 6 25 HELPS! with Viv Taylor Gee. 6 35 CROSSROADS. 7 00 EMERALDALE FARM. 7 30 KNIGHT RIDER: Knight in Retreat. More dragon slaying, with the high tech hero (David Hasselhoff) and his wonder vehicle. 8 30 MISS ENGLAND, MISS SCOTLAND, MISS WALES. No Miss Chalmers, though: instead TV-am's Anne Diamond makes her bid for the commere's crown, with Peter Marshall as resident consort, and London's Royal Theatre setting for the diamond battle which leads to Miss UK, and the ultimate challenge of Miss World. 9 30 TV EYE: Paid To Kill. The Pope? A reconstruction of the cross-examination in a Roman trial of Mehmet Ali Agca, the terrorist who shot the Pope. 10 00 NEWS AT TEN: weather. 10 30 SHELLEY: Tubes Help You Breed. Less Easy. Hywel Bennett as the likeable layabout of the repeated comedy, still wrestling with life's great moral dilemmas, like: is it better to travel chaffily than to suffer the silence of a crowded train? 11 00 PARENTS AND TEENAGERS. What time should teenagers come in at night? And what about invitations which involve not coming home at all? Latest programme in Central's part drama, and interview series examines the curfew conflict. 11 30 FACE OF A STRANGER. Jeremy Kemp, Bernard Archard and Rosemary Leach lead the latest old band-wagon thriller in the Edgar Wallace Presents slot, about a newly released prisoner and the favour to a cellmate that could work to his advantage. 12 35 NIGHT THOUGHTS with Mathoor Krishnamurti. Closedown.	<b>Channel 4</b> 2 15 pm Their Lordships' House. 2 30 Racing from York. 4 30 Insure the Slave Girl; Fantastic. 5 30 LANCER SPY. George Sanders takes a dual role in this 1937 spy thriller as British naval officer and the German lookalike whose place he takes in order to chase war plans in Berlin. With Peter Lorre, Dolores del Rio. 7 00 CHANNEL FOUR NEWS. 7 50 Comment by conservationist Ian Carr-stairs. Weather. 8 00 MIRROR IMAGE: BARCLAY JAMES HARVEST. David Wigg talks to the cult band who've been together for nearly 20 years - because, they reckon, they've never enjoyed major success. 9 00 THE BRIGHT SIDE. Never Look A Gift Horse In The Eye. Second episode of Willis Hall's new comedy, with Paula Wilcox as Cynthia, learning to cope while her husband (Paul Copley) is in prison - which this week means looking for the thought that counts behind the anniversary present. 9 30 FILM ON FOUR: SACRED HEARTS. An East Anglian convent school at the outbreak of World War Two is the setting for writer/director Barbara Bennie's first feature, premiered at last year's London Film Festival - a shrewd and funny portrait of adolescent angst in the repressive atmosphere of a religious institution. Oona Kirsh and Katrina Carillidge play the 15-year-olds - one an orphan who has known no other life, the other a worldly and heretical evacuee - who become friends; Anna Massey is the tyrannical nun in charge. 11 10 THE UNREPEATABLE WHO BARES WINS. In other words, a repeat - first of seven - of Who Bares Wins, selected sketches, including tonight the incredible pandas, from the alternative comedy show, featuring the likes of Rory McGrath, Jimmy Mulville, Julia Hills. 11 40 ARE YOU TAKING THE TABLETS? Bonny and Clyde. Agony aunt Claire Rayner joins the panel for this week's Ten Commandments discussion. 12 35 THEIR LORDSHIPS' HOUSE. 12 30 Close.
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<b>Anglia</b> 6 15 As London. 1 20 Anglia News. 1 30 Falcon Crest. 2 30 As London. 5 15 Connections. 5 45 News. 6 00 About Anglia. 6 30 Crossroads. 6 40 Anything Goes. 7 30 As London. 10 30 A Country Living. 11 00 Parents and Teenagers. 11 30 The Yellow Rose. 12 30 Thursday Topic; close. <b>Central</b> 6 15 As London. 12 25 European Folk Tales. 12 40 Contact. 1 0 News. 1 20 Central News. 1 30 The Irish R.M. 2 30 As London. 5 15 Connections. 5 45 News. 6 00 Crossroads. 6 30 As London. 7 00 Emmerdale Farm. 7 30 Street Hawk. 7 40 As London. 10 30 Central Lobby. 11 00 Parents and Teenagers. 11 30 Fight Night. 12 30 Close. <b>Channel</b> 6 15 As London. 1 20 Channel News. 1 30 Hotel. 2 30 As London. 5 15 As London. 5 45 News. 6 00 Channel Report. 6 30 Crossroads. 6 55 Jan and Steve. 7 00 Emmerdale Farm. 7 30 Street Hawk. 12 30 Close.	<b>Granada</b> 6 15 As London. 1 20 Granada Reports. 1 30 Scarcrow and Mrs King. 2 30 As London. 5 15 As London. 5 45 News. 6 00 This Is Your Right. 6 30 Crossroads. 6 55 Granada Reports. 7 00 Emmerdale Farm. 7 30 Hart to Hart. 7 40 As London. 11 30 Fight Night. 12 30 Close. <b>HTV</b> 6 15 As London. 1 20 HTV News. 1 30 Country Practice. 2 30 Home Cookery Club. 2 40 As London. 5 15 Connections. 5 45 News. 6 00 HTV News. 6 30 Crossroads. 6 55 As London. 7 00 Emmerdale Farm. 7 30 Street Hawk. 7 40 As London. 10 30 Weekend Outlook. 11 00 Parents and Teenagers. 11 30 The New Avengers. 12 30 Weather; close. Wales: As West except 6 05-6 35 pm Wales at Six. 10 30-11 5 Wales This Week. 12 30 Close.	<b>South</b> 6 15 As London. 1 20 TVS News. 1 30 As London. 1 40 TVS News. 2 30 Home Cookery Club. 2 40 As London. 5 15 Connections. 5 45 News. 6 00 HTV News. 6 30 Crossroads. 6 55 As London. 7 00 Emmerdale Farm. 7 30 Street Hawk. 7 40 As London. 10 30 Putting on the South. 11 00 Parents and Teenagers. 11 30 The New Avengers. 12 30 Company; close.	<b>South-West</b> 6 15 As London. 1 20 TVS News. 1 30 As London. 1 40 TVS News. 2 30 Home Cookery Club. 2 40 As London. 5 15 Connections. 5 45 News. 6 00 HTV News. 6 30 Crossroads. 6 55 As London. 7 00 Emmerdale Farm. 7 30 Street Hawk. 7 40 As London. 10 30 Putting on the South. 11 00 Parents and Teenagers. 11 30 The New Avengers. 12 30 Company; close.	<b>Yorkshire</b> 6 15 As London. 1 20 Calendar Lunchtime Live. 1 30 As London. 1 40 Calendar Headlines. 2 30 The Love Boat. 2 40 As London. 5 15 Connections. 5 45 News. 6 00 Calendar. 6 30 Crossroads. 6 55 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## Doctors suspended over private fees

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

Two North Staffordshire consultant pathologists have been suspended on full pay by West Midlands regional health authority pending consideration of allegations of missing cash due to the NHS from private practice.

Dr Terry Marshall and Dr Peter Fletcher are the first doctors to be suspended after the national audit inquiry ordered by Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, into the collection of private fees by health authorities.

The inquiry was originally ordered after a police investigation into "financial irregularities" at the Good Hope Hospital in Mr Fowler's constituency, Sutton Coldfield.

It found that among 37 district health authorities, the majority had failed to collect money from private practice, often not complying with Department of Health circulars.

The inquiry was followed last month by the refusal of Sir Gordon Downey, Comptroller and Auditor-General, to certify fully the accounts of 166 health authorities in England and Wales because of "serious and persistent failures" to collect private fees.

Last night one of the suspended consultants, Dr Terry Marshall, said: "I don't think the authority have enough grounds to sack me and if they do, I shall go to an industrial tribunal."

"I have not been accused of doing anything dishonest and there is no suggestion at any time that I have been fraudulent."

"In fact, no charge has been brought against me. It is a silly business and a source of discontent over the way the procedures were carried out."

Dr Fletcher could not be contacted at home last night. The regional health authority did not want to comment.

The future of the consultants will be discussed by the region next month.

The British Medical Association did not want to comment beyond a promise to defend both consultants if they are dismissed.

● The North-West Thames regional health authority is to produce a new guide to cover private practice arrangements. The authority has decided to compile the guide, putting together all the regulations, after criticism from the BMA that health administrators were partly responsible for the alleged loss of £80 million a year in private fees by failing to explain their procedures.

## Pipes stolen

Detectives were yesterday investigating the theft of a collection of rare tobacco pipes valued at £100,000 from a Sussex museum. Thieves climbed on to the roof of the House of Pipes Museum at Bramber, removed slates and lowered a ladder inside.

## Chase death

An 84-year-old woman run over by a police car involved in a high-speed chase died in hospital a few hours later, an inquest at Croydon heard on Monday. A verdict of accidental death was recorded on Miss Winifred Sage-Vine of Carshalton Beeches, Surrey.

## Steel sees Tory split after next election

By John Carvel

The Liberal leader, Mr David Steel, said yesterday that the creation of the Conservative Centre Forward group was only a minor breach in Tory ranks but it would be followed by serious divisions after the next general election.

Of Mr Pym and his colleagues, he said: "They are not defectors. They will work for their view of what the Tory Party should be, but they will fail."

"The Thatcher-Lawson duo have control in the party and will not listen to the voices in industry, commerce or the backbenches begging them to alter course."

Mr Steel, speaking to a Liberal Youth Day rally at the House of Commons, explained his scenario for a Liberal-led government if no party emerged with overall control after the next election.

The Alliance parties would not merely hold the balance between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Kinnoch. "We would become the catalyst round which a government could be formed."

Mr Steel ridiculed the Tories and Labour for organising "a mutual support system" after the breakdown of the party rule in most shire counties in the recent local elections.

The two parties, he said, were allowing each other to take control of counties to keep the Alliance out. Mr Steel told of a young Liberal that this could not be repeated in a hung parliament. Instead there would be "a total break from conventional two-party conflict politics and a switch to a more radical partnership approach, capable of uniting our people."

He continued: "First, a major group had to break away from the Labour Party. Second, a major breach has to be forced among the Tories. It will not be the same. There will be no formation of a new party like the SDP, but a substantial section of the Tory party will wish to get back to expressing the wishes of the natural majority."

"Our party must become the liberating force enabling the natural majority in the country to assert its will in Parliament."

The Conservative-controlled London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham won a case against the Department of the Environment. It arose as a result of an overpayment of £817,000 a year in housing subsidy to the council since 1977.

The mistake was discovered eight years ago in paying too much to a Conservative council may have paved the way for thousands of court cases and even longer delays in settling a rate remains had it not been for the intervention of the House of Lords.

Even councils who have reluctantly tied the line on rate-capping may be able to challenge the official ruling through the courts.

The case, resolved last week in the High Court, concerns money spent by a local authority towards the total eligible for rate support grant and therefore cannot be counted against a council's spending limits in connection with rate-capping.

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## Pym lies low after second defection

Continued from page one

to the German Chamber of Commerce in London, in which he criticised Mr Pym's group for failing to produce an alternative economic strategy.

"Everyone is entitled to their view — but criticism, especially from friends, should be based upon alternatives," he said.

"Unemployment remains a great problem and concern. There is no reluctance on the part of the Government to listen to other points of view, but their well-meaning expressions of concern by themselves, unaccompanied by specific remedies, do not solve the problem."

In his Oxford speech Mr Pym accused Mrs Thatcher of running a government which depended on slogans and which had failed to deliver the economic progress which it promised to the electorate.

Mr Pym is undoubtedly now the subject of a co-ordinated attack from Conservative Central Office and Downing Street, and risks appearing an isolated figure if he cannot show that his new group can wield some political weight in the Commons.

It is evident that at yesterday's meeting some of his supporters in London were last night looking at ways in which they might exploit the loophole and frustrate the auditors who have been pressing the six London authorities still holding out against rate-capping.

The loophole might be used throughout the country, particularly by Labour authorities, to sue the Environment Secretary over and over again on individual items of expenditure in the current budgets and as far back as 1982.

Mr Norman Lamont, the Industry Minister, addressed the question last night in a speech to the German Chamber of Commerce in London, in which he criticised Mr Pym's group for failing to produce an alternative economic strategy.

## Whitehall error brings hope to rates rebels

By Geoff Andrews, Local Government Correspondent

A mistake by civil servants eight years ago in paying too much to a Conservative council may have paved the way for thousands of court cases and even longer delays in settling a rate remains had it not been for the intervention of the House of Lords.

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## Nacods ballot likely to back overtime ban

## Notts miners reject changes

By Patrick Wintour, Labour Staff

Nottinghamshire miners have voted by three to one to reject proposed changes in the national union rules, even if it means that the area union must leave the national union or face expulsion as a consequence.

The result of the Nacods ballot will be announced later today when it is expected that the leadership will achieve the simple majority required for imposing the ban. Mr Peter McNeveny, the union's general secretary, said that under the union's rules the ban would be applied immediately.

However, after several hours of talks yesterday at the NCB's headquarters there were signs that the board was prepared to make concessions to the mining unions on the introduction of a new colliery review procedure.

Mr Michael Eaton, the board's chief spokesman, said that the NCB and the coal unions would be meeting again tomorrow and he was sure that the differences with Nacods could be reconciled in continuing negotiations. "They certainly do not warrant industrial action which could seriously affect the industry," he declared.

According to Mr Eaton, the board has now given a categorical assurance that all colliery closures will go through the existing colliery review procedure or the revised one on which talks are still in progress.

He said the NCB's area directors would be holding review meetings with the local unions before the end of the month. This would give the unions a clear idea in which direction the NCB wanted to go.

Mr Eaton emphasised that the board would honour the agreement reached last year with Nacods. The priority was to get the industry back to normal as quickly as possible.

Mr Lynam said: "I would hope the national executive will now drop the new rules and allow democracy in the union. Nottinghamshire will not accept the new rules, and neither will the whole-colliery section. So, the whole thing is a pointless exercise."

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## NCB may give ground on pit closure review

By Keith Harper

The National Coal Board last night made conciliatory overtures to the pit deputies' union, Nacods, in an attempt to prevent it from going ahead with its threatened overtime ban.

The result of the Nacods ballot will be announced later today when it is expected that the leadership will achieve the simple majority required for imposing the ban. Mr Peter McNeveny, the union's general secretary, said that under the union's rules the ban would be applied immediately.

However, after several hours of talks yesterday at the NCB's headquarters there were signs that the board was prepared to make concessions to the mining unions on the introduction of a new colliery review procedure.

Mr Michael Eaton, the board's chief spokesman, said that the NCB and the coal unions would be meeting again tomorrow and he was sure that the differences with Nacods could be reconciled in continuing negotiations. "They certainly do not warrant industrial action which could seriously affect the industry," he declared.

According to Mr Eaton, the board has now given a categorical assurance that all colliery closures will go through the existing colliery review procedure or the revised one on which talks are still in progress.

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Mr Eaton then listed 14 pits which would go through the procedure but would not necessarily be closed. Apart from the cases of the five pits which led to the miners' strike last year, Mr Eaton listed Marlham, St John's Redware (South Wales), Polkington and Frances (Scotland), and Bates and Horden (North-east).

His statement did not appear to put any ice with Mr McNeveny, who said Nacods was still waiting for a statement by agreement last year on a revised colliery review procedure.

Mr McNeveny claimed that the board's plan was to close so much uncertainty in the industry that miners would leave voluntarily. "In this way, the board will achieve its target without going through any procedure."

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